



January 30, 2012

The Honorable Michael Michaud
U.S House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Michaud:

On behalf of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), I would like to express our support for the American Shoes for American Servicemembers Act (H.R. 2955). Thank you for your unending dedication to maintaining the strength and stability of America's domestic manufacturing base of textiles, apparel, and footwear.

As you well know, the Berry Amendment already requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to procure military uniforms from 100% U.S. sources, which includes everything our servicemen and women require from head to toe, including footwear. In recent years, however, DOD has inexplicably pursued a policy that athletic footwear, contrary to current law, be procured outside the Berry Amendment.

Your bill makes a strong statement that our soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen should be outfitted and trained with American-made goods as intended by the Berry Amendment. In addition, this bill will enable the entire domestic footwear industry to create jobs by increasing manufacturing here at home.

I thank you again for your efforts to keep the Berry Amendment strong and look forward to working with you and your staff to seek timely enactment of the American Shoes for American Servicemembers Act.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Burke
President and CEO

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