



March 10, 2016

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chairman McCain and Ranking Member Reed:

We are writing to advise you of our very strong support for the *Buy American Act* (S. 2825). It is our hope that this legislation can be included as part of the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Similar legislation was included last month in the House version of the NDAA.

As a continued and staunch supporter of the Berry Amendment, AAFA firmly believes that athletic footwear always has been, and continues to be, an item that falls fully within the Berry Amendment procurement requirements.

We have long disagreed with the policy that has allowed athletic footwear for certain services to be furnished to U.S. troops outside the Berry Amendment. Singling out certain types of footwear for procurement outside the Berry Amendment creates a damaging precedent that undermines these important protections altogether.

S. 2825 will close this loophole, supporting U.S. footwear manufacturing jobs, while providing U.S. troops with Berry Amendment-compliant athletic footwear. We urge you to include this measure as part of the NDAA this year.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rick Helfenbein'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Helfenbein
President and CEO

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