



we wearSM global markets

September 15, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Reid and McConnell:

On behalf of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), I am writing to urge the Senate to confirm this week the pending nomination of Robert W. Holleyman II to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

Representing more than 340 companies responsible for 1,000 world famous name brands, AAFA is the trusted public policy and political voice of the apparel and footwear industry, its suppliers, its management and shareholders, its four million U.S. workers, and its contribution of \$350 billion in annual U.S. retail sales.

As you know, Mr. Holleyman was unanimously approved by the Senate Finance Committee in July. Mr. Holleyman draws upon deep experience in opening markets and safeguarding U.S. intellectual property rights, and he will bring to USTR an intimate knowledge of the digital economy issues upon which our nation's competitiveness is increasingly based.

By swiftly confirming Mr. Holleyman, the Senate has an opportunity to ensure a full leadership team at the USTR right now. This is vital if we are to engage our trading partners at the highest levels during the coming months on a range of trade negotiations, enforcement actions, and bilateral dialogues that are entering sensitive phases.

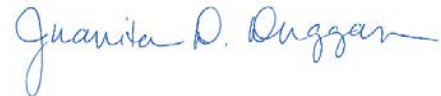
1601 North Kent Street
Suite 1200
Arlington, VA 22209

(703) 524-1864
(800) 520-2262
(703) 522-6741 fax
www.wewear.org

With so many U.S. jobs, including those in our industry, dependent upon access to international markets and proper enforcement of international trade obligations, it is imperative that our USTR leadership team be fully deployed immediately. We can't afford to wait until possible action in a post-election session, or later.

Please schedule a vote and confirm Robert W. Holleyman II as our next Deputy USTR this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juanita D. Duggan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Juanita D. Duggan
President & CEO