



Rubber and Plastic Footwear Manufacturers Association



June 7, 2016

Dear Senator:

We are writing to advise you of our very strong opposition to Amendment 4398 offered to the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 2943). As written, Amendment 4398 would eviscerate Section 671 of S 2943, which ensures that athletic shoes provided to recruits are done so in a manner consistent with the Berry Amendment. Section 671 will mean that recruits in all branches of the armed forces will once again be equipped with athletic shoes that are Made in the USA in a manner similar to other articles of clothing and footwear.

As continued and staunch supporters of the Berry Amendment, our organizations firmly believe that athletic footwear always has been, and continues to be, an item that falls fully within the Berry Amendment procurement requirements.

Amendment 4398 preserves a series of loopholes that allow 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.

Section 671 will close this loophole, supporting U.S. footwear manufacturing jobs, while providing U.S. troops with Berry Amendment-compliant Made in USA athletic footwear.

An equivalent provision exists as Section 808 of the House-passed version of the NDAA.

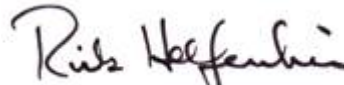
We urge that Amendment 4398 be defeated and that Section 671 be fully retained in the version that passes the Senate, and that is ultimately signed into law.

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


Sincerely,



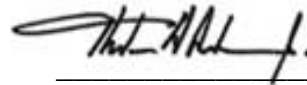
Auggie Tantillo
President
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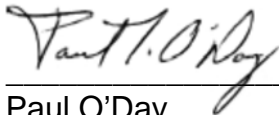
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Ted Anderson
Chairman
United States Industrial Fabrics Institute



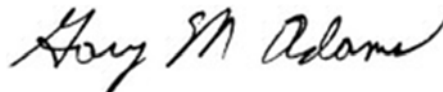
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Tom Dobbins
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Association



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American Sheep Industry Association



Gary Adams
President/CEO
National Cotton Council



Marc Fleischaker
Rubber & Plastic Footwear Manufacturers
Association



Philip K. Bell
President
Steel Manufacturers Association



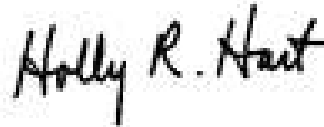
Brad Markell,
Executive Director, Industrial Union Council
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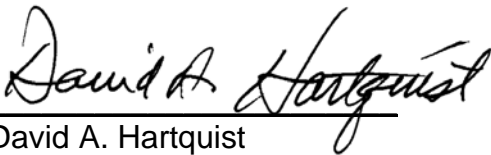
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