



May 16, 2016

The Honorable Pete Sessions  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Rules  
 H-312 The Capitol  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on Rules  
 H-312 The Capitol  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member McIntosh Slaughter:

We are writing to advise you of our very strong opposition to Sanford Amendment #167 which strikes Section 808 from H.R. 4909, the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. Section 808 is in effect the bipartisan Stepping up for American Workers and Troops Act (H.R. 4935).

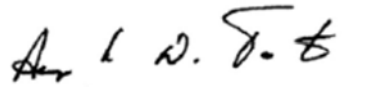
As continued and staunch supporters of the Berry Amendment, our organizations firmly believe that athletic footwear always has been, and continues to be, an item that falls fully within the Berry Amendment procurement requirements.

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.

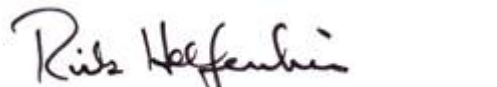
Section 808 will close this loophole, supporting U.S. footwear manufacturing jobs, while providing U.S. troops with Berry Amendment-compliant athletic footwear. We urge you to include this measure as part of the NDAA this year. Amendment #167 stands in stark contrast to the unanimous support Section 808 received during the House Armed Services Committee's Markup. It is an amendment based on a false premise and we urge that it is ruled out of order.

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

Sincerely,



Auggie Tantillo  
President  
National Council of Textile Organizations



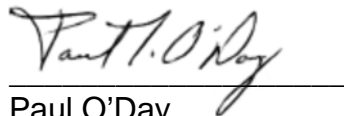
Rick Helfenbein  
President & CEO  
American Apparel and Footwear  
Association




Gifford Del Grande  
Chairman  
Narrow Fabrics Institute



Bret Kelley  
Chairman  
United States Industrial Fabrics Institute



Paul O'Day  
President  
American Fiber Manufacturers  
Association



Tom Dobbins  
President  
American Composites Manufacturers  
Association



Peter Orwick  
Executive Director  
American Sheep Industry Association



Gary Adams  
President/CEO  
National Cotton Council



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Marc Fleischaker  
Rubber & Plastic Footwear Manufacturers  
Association



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Philip K. Bell  
President  
Steel Manufacturers Association



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Brad Markell,  
Executive Director, Industrial Union Council  
AFLCIO



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Scott Paul  
President  
Alliance for American Manufacturing



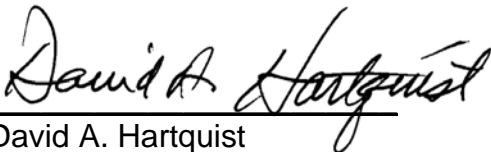
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G. L. "Roy" Bowen, III  
President  
Georgia Association of Manufacturers



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Holly R. Hart  
Assistant to the International President  
Legislative Director  
United Steelworkers



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David A. Hartquist  
Counsel  
Specialty Steel Industry of North  
America (SSINA)



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David L. Costello  
Executive Director  
Warrior Protection & Readiness  
Coalition



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Robert Dumont  
President and CEO  
Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies  
Association



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Sarah Y. Freidman  
Executive Director  
SEAMS, the National Association  
for the Sewn Products Industry