



June 12, 2012

Mr. Gene Sperling  
Assistant to the President for Economic Policy  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington DC 20500-0005

Dear Mr. Sperling:

We, the undersigned, are industry trade associations and labor unions that represent the overwhelming majority of our nation's nearly 500,000 workers in fiber, yarn, fabric, apparel, home furnishings and specialty fabrics applications. We are writing to request that the administration designate research and development funding for the specific purpose of improving the overall competitiveness and sustainability of the U.S. textile and apparel industries.

We believe it is essential that the U.S government continue to serve as a partner in the ongoing effort to transform the U.S. textile and apparel sector into a highly flexible supply chain, capable of responding to rapidly changing market demands. Our industry contributes over \$54 billion dollars to our nation's annual gross domestic product (GDP) and as noted above, it provides nearly one-half million direct jobs in the United States. Each of these 500,000 jobs creates and supports at least two additional domestic jobs. As a result, our sector provides at least 1.5 million critical jobs for our economy.

Specifically, we are seeking assistance in the development of ground breaking technologies that are designed to introduce waterless fabric dyeing and finishing techniques. This technology advancement would be intended to dramatically reduce production lead times. Color commitments could be made 2-3 weeks from the retail shelf as opposed to the current requirement of 3-6 months. This would assist in driving sourcing decisions of garments and home furnishings closer to the market where the product is actually consumed. That in turn would lead to investment and employment gains here in North America.

In addition, this program would have substantial environmental benefits. More than 80% of the water used in the manufacture of textiles and apparel is consumed in the dyeing and finishing of

the fabric. Under a system where no water is consumed in the application of color, no waste treatment facilities are required. Consequently, this research could lead to significant economic, employment and sustainability advancements.

We would note that numerous other governments are investing heavily in various facets of textile research. For example, the French, British and German governments are all sponsoring research through their respective university structures on advanced textile composites. The Japanese government is establishing a fiber innovation incubator. The Korean government is working with their universities on advanced textile technologies. Finally, China has invested over \$60 million recently to further research related to advanced textiles and nanotechnologies.

Technology development and distribution is critical in terms of helping the U.S. industry in their ongoing effort to remain globally competitive. A stable domestic textile and apparel sector is important in this period of severe unemployment, as the industry remains a primary supplier of employment to women and minority workers, with many of these jobs located in depressed rural areas, as well as major inner cities.

For all these reasons, we encourage you to designate a reasonable level of a textile and apparel research funding through an appropriate agency such as the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Augustine D. Tantillo  
Executive Director  
American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition  
(AMTAC)



Paul O'Day  
President  
American Fiber Manufacturers  
Association (AFMA)



Cass M. Johnson  
President  
National Council of Textile  
Organizations (NCTO)



David Trumbull  
Vice President, International Trade  
National Textile Association  
(NTA)



Kevin M. Burke  
President and CEO  
American Apparel & Footwear Assn. (AAFA)



Alfred John Maguire III  
Senior VP for Washington Operations  
National Cotton Council (NCC)



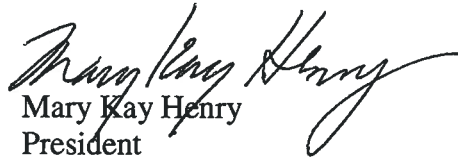
Ruth Stephens  
Executive Director  
U.S. Industrial Fabrics Institute (USIFI)



President  
Sewn Products Equipment & Suppliers  
of the Americas (SPESA)



Jack Daniels  
American Assn. Textile Chemists &  
Colorists (AATCC)



Mary Kay Henry  
President  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

cc: Jason Miller, Special Assistant to the President for Manufacturing Policy  
Tom Kurfess, Assistant Director for Advanced Manufacturing Office of Science &  
Technology