



**April 25, 2016**

The Honorable Niki Tsongas  
1607 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Poliquin  
426 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Tsongas and Poliquin:

I am writing to express strong support for the *Stepping Up for American Workers and Troops Act (HR 4935)*.

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.

Your legislation will close this loophole, supporting U.S. footwear manufacturing jobs, while providing U.S. troops with Berry Amendment-compliant athletic footwear.

Thank you for your leadership in proposing this important, and long overdue, legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rick Helfenbein'.

Rick Helfenbein  
President and CEO

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