



December 20, 2012

The Honorable Kay Hagan
United States Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3301
FAX: 202-228-2563

The Honorable Tim Johnson
United States Senate
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4103
FAX: 202-228-5765

RE: Export-Import Bank Textile Industry Study

Dear Senators Hagan and Johnson:

On behalf of the entire textile and apparel supply chain, thank you again for your leadership in ensuring that H.R. 2072 – *Securing American Jobs Through Exports Act of 2011* – included provisions that will create critical avenues of financing for the textile and apparel global supply chain to support U.S. jobs and U.S. manufacturing. Thank you also for securing a study, which is ongoing, through the General Accountability Office (GAO), on how the Export-Import Bank could improve its support for our industry.

A few weeks ago, one of the first requirements of the legislation was fulfilled. As required under the legislation, the Export-Import Bank on November 26 published a separate analysis of the textile and apparel industry's use of current Bank products and the impediments to use of those products.

As intended, the analysis provided a thorough and thoughtful review of the Bank's recent history with the textile and apparel industry. As required by law, the analysis also included detailed and innovative recommendations for how the Bank could provide more financing to the industry.

We applaud the Bank for taking the opportunity of the analysis to pursue such an introspective review on how the Bank has done in the past and how it can do better in the future. We believe the study's recommendations provide a real and achievable blueprint for how the Bank can move forward to improve financing for the textile and apparel supply chain.

This milestone, along with the recent appointment of a textile representative to the Bank's Advisory Committee (also as required by law), gives us hope that we can succeed in developing critical financing through the Bank for the textile and apparel supply chain.

As such, we believe that the need for the separate GAO study has been mitigated, and is no longer necessary.

We look forward to working closely with the Bank, as well as your offices, to implement the recommendations contained in the Bank study.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,



Kevin Burke
President & CEO, American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)



John Maguire
Senior Vice President, National Cotton Council (NCC)



Cass Johnson
President, National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)