

December 15, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dave Camp
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner, Chairman Levin, and Ranking Member Camp:

The following organizations are writing to urge House passage of the Omnibus Trade Act of 2010 (HR 6517). This legislation may be the best opportunity for Congress to renew several important trade programs before they expire at the end of this year and make a number of important changes in trade-related measures.

The legislation being voted on today would:

- Extend the expiring Andean Trade Preferences Act (ATPA);
- Extend the expiring Generalized System of Preferences (GSP);
- Extend and make changes to expiring Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) provisions;
- Extend and make technical fixes for the wool trust fund; and
- Enact pending miscellaneous tariff bill (MTB) provisions.

The centerpiece of this bill is the second tranche of the MTB. Passing the MTB is one of the most important short-term actions Congress can take to preserve and expand good American jobs, cut the costs of doing business in the United States and boost American manufacturing exports. U.S. manufacturers - large and small – greatly benefit from such MTB tariff suspension provisions.

Together, these provisions help preserve and promote U.S. jobs across a wide spectrum of the U.S. economy. Enacting these provisions now will reduce uncertainty created by the imminent expiration of several provisions. A number of provisions help reduce the cost basis for U.S. manufacturers on inputs and goods that they cannot find domestically. Other provisions continue important support and training programs that are critically important for U.S. companies and workers. Without these provisions, the cost of these companies' products will inevitably increase, forcing them to pass higher costs on to consumers and making their products less competitive. These higher costs translate into lost jobs for American workers.

We urge that HR 6517 be approved by the House and that it be enacted as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Transportation Coalition
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Fiber Manufacturers Association (AFMA)
American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC)
Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACCLA)
Brazil-U.S. Business Council
Business Roundtable
Coalition for GSP
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)
Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT)
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)
National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)
National Retail Federation (NRF)
National Textile Association (NTA)
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
Sewn Products Equipment & Suppliers of the Americas (SPESA)
The Hosiery Association (THA)
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S.-India Business Council
United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel (USA-ITA)