

AMTAC

American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition

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December 2, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sent via e-mail

RE: Support of S. 2518

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

The American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) represents U.S. manufacturers of various types of textile and apparel products. On behalf of our members, we are writing to express formal support for S. 2518, a bill to temporarily suspend U.S. duties on certain acrylic staple fibers.

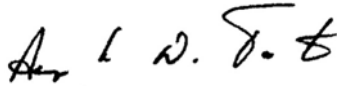
AMTAC has heard concerns from our members on numerous occasions about the lack of domestic availability of acrylic fiber. Acrylic fiber is the primary raw material and highest cost input for U.S. textile manufacturers utilizing these fibers and currently must be imported because there is no domestic supplier for this product.

Due to the unique characteristics of these fibers – water resistant, fade resistant, durability – manufacturers who use these raw materials are at the high-end of the value-added chain and can compete against foreign manufacturers as long as they have access to raw materials at competitive prices. Our competitors in Canada, Europe, China, India, among others do not incur tariffs on acrylic fiber, while the U.S. continues to impose an average five percent duty rate. As a result, U.S. companies have been forced to curtail or eliminate product lines.

This bill would help to remedy the situation by improving competitiveness of U.S. fabric manufacturers and thereby creating or preserving U.S. jobs. As a result of the global economic downturn, the U.S. textile and apparel industries have lost more than 37,000 jobs since January 2009. The companies utilizing the acrylic fibers defined by this legislation support more than 3,000 jobs.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the more than 3,000 jobs supported by the proposals to suspend duties on acrylic fiber are preserved. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on S. 2518, and we greatly appreciate your noting our support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. I. N. S. T.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Augustine Tantillo
Executive Director
AMTAC

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