



December 2, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S.2520 . Acrylic Fiber

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing to let you know of the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) support of duty suspension legislation for acrylic fiber. Legislation to suspend the duty on acrylic fiber was introduced by Senator Lindsey Graham and the bill number is S.2520.

The National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) is a unique association representing the entire spectrum of the textile industry. From fibers to finished products, machinery manufacturers to power suppliers, NCTO is the voice of the U.S. textile industry.

Because acrylic fiber production has ceased in the United States and is unlikely to be manufactured domestically in the foreseeable future, the imposition of a tariff on these products can no longer be justified, especially when such a tariff puts the member companies of NCTO at a competitive disadvantage.

The U.S. textile industry is already facing tremendous market pressures due to the lifting of global textile and apparel quotas in January 2009. Since the global economic crisis began, China has increased its textile and apparel export subsidies by \$40 billion. If our industry is forced to absorb duties on imported rayon fibers, many of us will be unable to compete and will be forced to exit the market for our product lines that utilize these fibers. If this happens, dozens of plants and thousands of workers across the country will be adversely affected.

We understand that Congress has provided the duty suspension process to address situations such as this, and we strongly encourage a favorable report by the Committee and the Congress on this extension request and the entire Miscellaneous Tariff bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information on this request.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Cass Johnson
President

