



NATIONAL TEXTILE ASSOCIATION

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Via email mtb2009@finance-dem.senate.gov and fax (202) 228-0567

December 4, 2009

Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Attention MTB S. 2585

To Whom It May Concern:

I write on behalf of the National Textile Association ("NTA"), the oldest and largest association of companies who form, dye, print, or finish woven, knitted, and non-woven textiles in the U.S.

NTA opposes S.2585 relating to certain knit-to-shape sweaters for men.

1. The subject garments are made of yarn of the type made in the U.S. and which may be exported for use in production of such garments in our trade preference or free trade partners, so that this bill could erode our current preference and free trade programs.
2. Such duty reduction will exert downward price pressure on competing products made in the U.S., which will harm the already weakened U.S. textile and apparel industries.
3. We also oppose because it has always been our understanding that the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill was intended to promote U.S. manufacturing by providing limited tariff relief (up to \$500,000 for any specific tariff line) to domestic U.S. manufacturers who use inputs that are not available from a domestic source, not as a vehicle to swell the profit margins of importers and retailers of finished goods to the discouragement of domestic manufacturing.
4. Further we note that the U.S. is currently, in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization talks, negotiating reductions in textile and apparel duties in exchange for certain trade liberalization with regard to other goods and services on the part of our trading partners, in that context it makes no sense to unilaterally give up a tariff with no compensation from our trading partners.

Yours,

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