



November 09, 2009

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Senator:

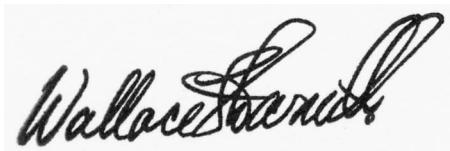
On behalf of the National Council of Textile Organizations, I write to request that you support strong enforcement of U.S. trade laws by cosponsoring S. 1982, the Trade Enforcement Priorities Act of 2009. S. 1982, introduced by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) will reestablish the Super 301 process under Section 310 of the Trade Act of 1974. Super 301 requires the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to review, identify, and report on the most egregious trade barriers put in place to prevent the export of American goods. The legislation authorizes USTR to initiate a Section 301 investigation if a "priority foreign country practice" is identified. The intent of reestablishing Super 301 is to promote, strengthen, and rebuild U.S. manufacturing at a time when job creation should be the #1 priority for the United States.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the U.S. manufacturing sector has shed 2.1 million jobs since the beginning of the recession and the textile industry alone has lost 50,000 jobs since December 2008. To make matters worse the economy continues to shed jobs at an accelerated rate, 190,000 jobs lost in October. Employers and workers, employed and unemployed, need strong enforcement of our trade laws to prevent unfair and illegal trade practices by foreign governments. Without strong enforcement like that afforded by S. 1982 U.S. companies can't compete with unfair trade practices that are continually ignored by international bodies.

The textile industry, for example, has eroded over the past decade due to predatory and mercantilist trade practices of the Chinese government. In fact, the Chinese government offers its textile and apparel industry 63 known subsidies, including a number which are believed to be WTO illegal. If S. 1982 were enacted, the United States government would be required to focus its efforts and resources on those unfair Chinese government subsidies that cost the most U.S. jobs. Providing the USTR the authority to take this important step will bolster industries that have been severely damaged by surging imports and predatory trade practices.

For these reasons, I once again urge you to show support for U.S. jobs and a strong manufacturing base by cosponsoring S. 1982, the Trade Enforcement Priorities Act of 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray rectangular background. The signature reads "Wallace L. Darnielle" in a cursive script.

Wally L. Darnielle
Chairman, NCTO Board of Directors

President & CEO
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association