

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear President Bush,

We are writing to ask for your leadership and support for a growing worldwide effort to save more than half a million jobs at home and tens of millions of textile and apparel jobs abroad. This effort is centered around a call for an emergency meeting of the WTO to re-examine the fourth stage of product integration for textiles and apparel and assess whether it should be postponed until 2008 or later. This initiative is already supported by textile and apparel groups from more than 33 countries, including major groups in the United States.

Such a step would represent the most rational and pragmatic approach to the anticipated loss of some 30 million textile and apparel jobs that will result if the quotas are removed while China continues to use unfair trade practices to heavily subsidize its exports. As your Administration has frequently noted, China's unfair trade practices in the textile sector include currency manipulation, direct state subsidies, export tax rebates and the widespread use of non-performing loans. These practices have allowed China to slash prices by as much as 75 percent, thus destroying any semblance of free market competition. As a result, China has already absorbed 60 percent of the U.S. market in those areas where quotas have recently been removed and its market share continues to grow. According to multiple studies, China is now on the edge of establishing the first ever monopoly of the world's textile and apparel trade.

If this occurs, the consequences for the United States and the world community are grim. Many of our key allies in the war on terror as well as our strategic trading partners will quickly see millions of their workers put out on the street. Among those countries that will be most severely impacted are Turkey, Egypt, Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Haiti, Mexico, the nations of Sub-Saharan Africa and those of Central and South America. A Chinese monopoly of global textile and apparel trade would shake the economic and political stability of dozens of struggling nations. 30 million jobs, many in poor and unstable countries, should not be put at risk by the actions of a few countries that refuse to follow the rules. Unfair actors should not be rewarded, particularly when it risks economic and political instability on a global scale.

In our own country, the impact will be devastating. The U.S. textile sector, still the largest manufacturing employer in the United States, stands to lose almost 650,000 jobs. In addition, the destruction of more than half a million textile and apparel manufacturing jobs in Latin America will likely trigger a new wave of illegal immigration that will further burden state and local governments at a time of economic difficulty.

Mr. President, China's embrace of multiple illegal and distorting trade practices was not contemplated when the phase-out was originally planned. Nor was China's domination of the world's textile and apparel trade and the potential dislocation of tens of millions of productive workers envisioned. Such a result is surely not in the interests of the United States or the world economy. China would undoubtedly use its new enormous economic clout in this critical industrial sector to further its larger foreign policy goals -- goals that may or may not be inimical to U.S. interests. In the name of fair trade and a safer and more secure world, we urge your Administration to strongly support an emergency meeting of the WTO to reconsider the wisdom of allowing worldwide quotas on textile and apparel products to expire.

Sincerely yours,

Virgil Goode

Howard Coble

Debra L. Mayette

Eric B

Mark Soder

Bill Jubin

Chip Sizing

Mae Collins

Randy Neugebauer

~~Bob~~

~~for~~

John Spaw

Bill Kowalski

Ciro Rodriguez

Robert B. Adenholt

Don Shwood

Marion Berry

Henry E. Brown

Jim McDermott

Leith J. Smith

John Burt

William L. Solis

Fane Evans

Max Evans

Barnes Frank

Myrtle Evans

Vern Everett

Jewell Hadley

John M. McHugh

Louise Royal - Aldred

Bert Sypak

Harold Rogers

Charlie Stenholm

Jack Kingston

Clara Hunter

Bart Gordon

Gene Taylor

Tom O'Leary

Gene Allen

Shirley Brown

Don Price

Tom Lantos

Rosa (L.) Fann

Frank A. To Bundo

~~John~~

Robin Hayes

Robert Wynn

Mike McAntye

Pete Stech

Allen Boyd

Jed Strickland

~~John~~

David Scott

Walter B. Jones

Michael R. Michum

Jim Langerin

Joe Wilson

Tim Ryan

Charles H. Taylor

Arthur Davis

Sue Myrick

Joe Breen

Frank W. Ballancey

Frank Pullone, Jr.

Jim Long

Spencer

Paul Galt

William L. Pinski
Dairi Sai

Tom Peter

Robert E. Per

Elton Galleghy

Tom Holler

William L. Watt

Wally

Aule E. Kildee

Cass Ballenger

Rik Boucher

Charlie Nowood

Arford D. Burhoff

Bob Filmer

John Longman

Jim Kendall

Mike Roger (CAL)

Jan Schindler

Max Bunn

Marsha Blackburn

James P. Clyburn



House Signatures

88 Representatives from 25 different states signed the House letter.

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|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Aderholt (AL) | 35. Michaud (ME) | 69. Barrett (SC) |
| 2. Bachus (AL) | 36. Frank (MA) | 70. Brown (SC) |
| 3. Davis (AL) | 37. McGovern (MA) | 71. Clyburn (SC) |
| 4. Everett (AL) | 38. Conyers (MI) | 72. Spratt (SC) |
| 5. Rogers (AL) | 39. Kildee (MI) | 73. Wilson (SC) |
| 6. Berry (AR) | 40. Stupak (MI) | 74. Blackburn (TN) |
| 7. Baca (CA) | 41. Taylor (MS) | 75. Gordon (TN) |
| 8. Filner (CA) | 42. Andrews (NJ) | 76. Jenkins (TN) |
| 9. Gallegly (CA) | 43. LoBiondo (NJ) | 77. Frost (TX) |
| 10. Hunter (CA) | 44. Pallone (NJ) | 78. Green (TX) |
| 11. Lantos (CA) | 45. Pascrell (NJ) | 79. Neugebauer (TX) |
| 12. Rohrabacher (CA) | 46. Crowley (NY) | 80. Rodriguez (TX) |
| 13. Roybal-Allard (CA) | 47. McHugh (NY) | 81. Stenholm (TX) |
| 14. Sanchez, Linda (CA) | 48. Nadler (NY) | 82. Boucher (VA) |
| 15. Solis (CA) | 49. Owens (NY) | 83. Goode (VA) |
| 16. Stark (CA) | 50. Ballance (NC) | 84. Baird (WA) |
| 17. DeLauro (CT) | 51. Ballenger (NC) | 85. McDermott (WA) |
| 18. Boyd (FL) | 52. Burr (NC) | 86. Green (WI) |
| 19. Wexler (FL) | 53. Coble (NC) | 87. Obey (WI) |
| 20. Bishop (GA) | 54. Etheridge (NC) | 88. Petri (WI) |
| 21. Burns (GA) | 55. Hayes (NC) | |
| 22. Collins (GA) | 56. Jones (NC) | |
| 23. Gingrey (GA) | 57. McIntyre (NC) | |
| 24. Isakson (GA) | 58. Miller (NC) | |
| 25. Kingston (GA) | 59. Myrick (NC) | |
| 26. Majette (GA) | 60. Price (NC) | |
| 27. Marshall (GA) | 61. Taylor (NC) | |
| 28. Norwood (GA) | 62. Watt (NC) | |
| 29. Scott (GA) | 63. Brown (OH) | |
| 30. Evans (IL) | 64. Ryan (OH) | |
| 31. Lipinski (IL) | 65. Strickland (OH) | |
| 32. Schakowsky (IL) | 66. Holden (PA) | |
| 33. Souder (IN) | 67. Sherwood (PA) | |
| 34. Rogers (KY) | 68. Langevin (RI) | |