

News Release

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**April Trade Figures Show Actions by Government against
China were Key to Saving Textile Jobs
Action on DR-CAFTA by Congress Also Essential to
Stopping China**

Washington DC) Data released by the U.S. Commerce Department today shows that the quick action by the U.S. government last month to impose safeguards were essential to saving jobs in the textile industry.

Import data shows that China continued its unprecedented surge into the U.S. market in April, exporting 501 million garments during the month. Exports in key product areas such as cotton trousers and knit shirts continued to increase at 1,500 percent or more. According to figures from the International Trade Commission, Chinese exports of garments have been running at a rate of 16 million garments *per day* since quotas were removed on January 1st.

NCTO President Cass Johnson noted that the DR-CAFTA agreement is an essential part of the industry strategy to survive the threat from China:

“Last month, U.S. government acted decisively to stop the flood of Chinese imports by imposing expedited safeguards and by doing so, the government saved tens of thousands of textile jobs. China is now facing embargoes in major categories as early as July.

Now it is time for the U.S. Congress to take similar decisive action to keep China at bay. The DR-CAFTA agreement must be approved if the U.S. textile industry is to maintain a long term competitive edge against China and other Asian exporters. 71 percent of all apparel imports from the Caribbean contain U.S. yarns and fabrics, compared to less than one percent of imports from China. Our industry needs a pro-active, forward thinking trade strategy to keep China at bay and the DR-CAFTA is an essential element of that.

This industry cannot survive the threat from China and elsewhere without U.S. government safeguards on China and the permanent duty-free platform that DR-CAFTA creates. Both are integral to maintaining more than \$4 billion in textile exports to the region and to keeping tens of thousands of our workers employed in the United States.”

Facts on DR-CAFTA:

- 1) The U.S. textile industry exports over \$4 billion in US made yarns and fabrics to the DR-CAFTA region. It is by far the largest manufacturing exporter to the region.
- 2) The DR-CAFTA replaces a temporary duty-free program for textiles and apparel called the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Assistance Act (CBTPA) which expires in 2008.
- 3) The broad textile industry, as represented by eight major textile associations, support DR-CAFTA and urge its passage. These groups represent more than \$100 billion in annual US textile sector production and sales.

American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA)

American Fiber Manufacturers Association (AFMA)
American Textile Machinery Association (ATMA)
Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI)
INDA, Association of the Nonwovens Fabrics Industry
National Cotton Council (NCC)
National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)
Textile Distributors Association (TDA)

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