

News Release

For Immediate Release:
Monday, November 29, 2005

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CHINA SPAN

**NCTO Welcomes Spooner and Quesenberry
Announcements**

**Announcements Demonstrate Government's
Commitment to U.S. Textile Industry**

Washington DC) NCTO Chairman Jim Chesnutt applauded the recent announcement that President Bush has nominated David Spooner to serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration, and that Scott Quesenberry will assume Mr. Spooner's position at USTR as the Special Textile Negotiator.

Chesnutt noted that, "Mr. Spooner's distinguished background on Capitol Hill and within the Administration as Special Textile Negotiator at USTR has prepared him well for this appointment. He has served the Bush Administration and the U.S. textile industry with distinction and we look forward to working with him in his new capacity. We are pleased that in his new capacity Mr. Spooner will have oversight responsibilities for the implementation of textile agreements." Chesnutt noted that as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration, Mr. Spooner will have the Department of Commerce's Office of Textiles and Apparel, which is responsible for the implementation and oversight of textile agreements, in his portfolio.

"While we are saddened to see Mr. Spooner leave USTR, we are delighted to have Scott Quesenberry step into the role as Special Textile Negotiator. As Legislative Director to Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), Mr. Quesenberry has worked tirelessly on behalf of our industry and there is no individual more qualified for this position. As a North Carolina native and a Capitol Hill veteran, he has an indepth understanding of both the policy issues affecting the industry as well as the real-life implications of these policies on companies and workers."

"Mr. Spooner and Mr. Quesenberry face a challenging road as the government prepares for the upcoming Hong Kong Ministerial. We encourage them to work towards an agreement that does not disadvantage U.S. workers and companies for the benefit of a few countries who could easily monopolize trade in this sector." Chesnutt further noted, "We encourage the U.S. government to support a sectoral negotiation for textiles and apparel in the Doha Round where the unique and sensitive nature of this industry can be addressed in a comprehensive manner. We look forward to working with them on this initiative."

NCTO strongly encourages the Senate to act quickly to confirm David Spooner as Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

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