



Textile News & Information

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For Immediate Release

Kissell Wins Passage of Textile Jobs Bill in House, NCTO Calls on the Senate to Act

- Bill Requires Government to Source More US Textile Products -

Washington DC) NCTO applauded Congressman Larry Kissell (D-NC) for securing passage of H.R. 3116, the Berry Amendment Extension Act an important textile jobs bill today. The textile jobs bill requires the U.S. government to source textile and apparel products for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The legislative win follows the enactment of a related piece of textile jobs legislation, the "Kissell Amendment," that won Congressional approval in March 2009, just months after Congressman Kissell was sworn into office. The two pieces of legislation are the first new requirements in 15 years that require the government to give priority to domestic textile producers when purchasing textile products.

NCTO President Cass Johnson said, "We applaud and thank Congressman Kissell for his leadership and for continuing his aggressive push to ensure that textile workers in his district and around the country are given new opportunities in Washington D.C. In May, Congressman Kissell also introduced another job creating textile bill, H.R. 5393, the Textile Security and Enforcement Act (TESA). TESA will also create U.S. jobs because it cracks down on textile customs fraud from China and Pakistan, which has taken production away from the textile supply chain in the Western Hemisphere and has cost the jobs of tens of thousands of textile workers. H.R. 5393 will eliminate fraud and will bring back textile jobs to the United States."

NCTO also thanked Congressman Howard Coble (R-NC) for co-sponsoring the legislation and applauded Representatives Coble, Mike Rogers (R-AL) and Laura Richardson (D-CA) for voicing strong support for the bill on the House floor today.

Regarding H.R. 3116, the Berry Amendment Extension Act extends the Berry Amendment, which mandates that textile and apparel products purchased by the Department of Defense be made in the United States, to the Department of Homeland Security in accordance with international obligations. H.R. 3116 makes permanent the original Kissell Amendment, which applies to goods sourced by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Coast Guard under the Stimulus Bill. H.R. 3116 also gives the Obama Administration the authority to apply H.R. 3116 to the entire agency which includes Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Secret Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Immigration and Citizenship Enforcement (ICE), in addition to the Coast Guard and TSA.

NCTO urged the Senate to pass the legislation and for the Obama Administration to take the necessary steps required under international trade law to apply H.R. 3116 as intended by Congress. "We urge the Senate to move quickly on a companion measure and for the Obama Administration to designate that all agencies within the Department of Homeland Security must source textile and apparel products only from U.S. producers."

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KEY FACTS – Textile Industry

- É One of the largest manufacturing employers in the United States, the overall textile sector employed over 421,000 workers in 2009. Textile mills alone employed 126,000 workers.
- É The 3rd largest exporter of textile products in the world ó more than \$10 billion in 2009.
- É Nearly two-thirds of U.S. textile exports during 2009 went to developing countries. The U.S. textile industry exported to more than 50 countries, with 16 countries buying more than \$100 million a year.
- É Supplies more than 8,000 different textile products a year to the U.S. military.
- É U.S. textile shipments totaled \$48.7 billion in 2009.
- É Invested more than \$9 billion in new plants and equipment from 2001 to 2006.
- É Has increased productivity by 50 percent over the last 10 years and ranks second among all industrial sectors in productivity increases.
- É In 2009, textile workers on average earned 143% more than clothing store workers (\$517 a week vs. \$213) and received health care and pension benefits.