



**For Immediate Release  
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**U.S. Apparel and Textile Industry Applauds Ex-Im Bank Reauthorization Mark Up**

Arlington, VA – The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), the National Cotton Council (NCC), and the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) today welcomed the successful mark up of the *Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2011* by the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee.

“Today’s successful mark up by the Senate Banking Committee is a welcome step toward strengthening the U.S. apparel industry’s supply chain throughout the Western Hemisphere,” said AAFA President and CEO Kevin M. Burke. “By better recognizing the needs of our industry’s global supply chain, the Export – Import Bank through this reauthorization can help provide greater access to supply chain financing to address the needs of U.S. companies in a globally competitive environment and create more jobs here in the United States. I would like to thank Chairman Johnson (D-SD) and Senator Hagan (D-NC) for their continued leadership on this important issue.”

“The U.S. cotton industry is pleased to see an opportunity for its textile customers to expand exports of value-added products containing U.S. cotton, with the resulting benefits to our nation’s farm income and job creation,” NCC President and CEO Mark Lange said.

“NCTO applauds Chairman Johnson (D-SD) and Senator Hagan’s leadership in recognizing the opportunities that exist for US job creation and investment in the Western Hemisphere,” said

NCTO President Cass Johnson. “The textile and apparel supply chain is in critical need of liquidity in order to spur new growth, investment, and jobs in the region. This has been the missing piece that the Hemisphere sorely needs to attract new orders from brands and retailers. Committee approval of the Ex-Im Reauthorization bill, containing important Bank improvements for the industry takes the entire supply chain one step closer to addressing this crucial issue.”

To read the June 30, 2011 joint statement submitted the AAFA, NCC, and NCTO to the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Security, International Trade, and Finance, click [here](#).

### **American Apparel & Footwear Association**

The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn products companies, and their suppliers, which compete in the global market. AAFA's mission is to promote and enhance its members' competitiveness, productivity and profitability in the global market by minimizing regulatory, commercial, political, and trade restraints.

### **National Cotton Council**

The National Cotton Council of America's mission is to ensure the ability of all U.S. cotton industry segments to compete effectively and profitably in the raw cotton, oilseed and U.S.-manufactured product markets at home and abroad.

### **National Council of Textile Organizations**

The National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) is a unique association representing the entire spectrum of the textile industry. From fibers to finished products, machinery manufacturers to power suppliers, NCTO is the voice of the U.S. textile industry. There are four separate councils that comprise the NCTO leadership structure, and each council represents a segment of the textile industry and elects its own officers who make up NCTO's Board of Directors.

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