



Candidates Respond to Textile Questionnaire

Textile Companies Pledge to Distribute Responses to Employees

June 4, 2004

WASHINGTON, DC – Responses to the “Textile Industry Candidate Questionnaire” were released by the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC), the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), and the National Textile Association (NTA) on Friday, June 4.

“The questionnaire was done as a public educational service. We wanted to give all the South Carolina candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives an opportunity to go on the record and express their positions on key textile issues and trade policy,” said AMTAC Executive Director Auggie Tantillo.

NCTO President Cass Johnson said, “We have produced a one-page response form containing the responses from all the candidates. All of our member companies in South Carolina will be giving copies of the responses to their employees over the next four days.”

“South Carolina has 47,800 textile manufacturing workers. We urge them and all South Carolinians to participate meaningfully in the electoral process,” said NTA President Karl Spilhaus.

The questionnaire consisted of five questions related to key textile manufacturing and trade policy issues. All candidates were requested to respond to the questions with “Yes” or “No” answers.

The questionnaires were transmitted via U.S. Priority Mail, certified, with a return receipt requested on May 18 to all publicly identifiable South Carolina candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

The deadline for candidates to return their responses was June 3.

Copies of the textile questionnaire and the one-page form containing all candidate responses are attached.

NCTO, AMTAC and NTA also announced that they would be sending textile questionnaires to U.S. House and Senate candidates in North Carolina and Georgia in the near future. They also reported that they would not rule out sending out questionnaires in other states as well.

Approximately 32.2 percent of U.S. textile and apparel manufacturing jobs (336,800) have been lost since 2001. 709,500 U.S. textile and apparel manufacturing jobs still remain.

CONTACTS:

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NCTO – Robert DuPree, Vice President
(202) 756-1440 or rfdupree@ncto.org

NTA – David Trumbull, Dir. of Member Services
(617) 542-8220 x 2 or dtrumbull@nationaltextile.org

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A M T A C
American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition



May 19, 2004

Dear Candidate:

On behalf of the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC), the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), and the National Textile Association (NTA), whose members include many of America's largest textile employers, we invite you to share with America's textile manufacturers and our workers your views on specific issues of vital importance to the domestic textile industry.

More than 2.8 million manufacturing jobs have been lost in the past three years, including 340,000 in the textile and apparel sector. The U.S. trade deficit in goods was approximately \$550 billion in 2003 - the highest trade deficit ever recorded by any country in history. This job-destroying deficit has been exacerbated by the fact that other governments, such as China, employ unfair and illegal trade practices. These practices include currency manipulation and state subsidies to their manufacturing base in the form of non-performing loans and tax rebate schemes that distort trade. Indeed, as our industry has lost hundreds of thousands of jobs, Chinese textile and apparel imports have soared to record levels.

Current U.S. trade policy is encouraging a relentless outsourcing of U.S. jobs and U.S. wealth. As a consequence, the united textile industry believes that the United States government should:

- (a) Take vigorous and immediate actions to strengthen domestic manufacturing, preserve U.S. manufacturing jobs, and reduce the trade deficit significantly;
- (b) Enter into no further agreements that would encourage the offshoring of yet more U.S. manufacturing jobs and production; and
- (c) Take immediate actions to eliminate or negate the illegal and unfair trade practices mentioned above.

If you are elected in November, your votes on these issues could determine whether thousands more American textile jobs are forever lost or whether the United States adopts a "fair trade" policy that will allow America to begin to rebuild her manufacturing industries.

We invite you to respond to each of the five questions below. Your responses, along with the responses of any other candidate(s) for the same office, will be given to the member companies of AMTAC, NCTO, and NTA for distribution to their employees and others in their communities who have an interest in the health of America's textile industry.

In order to give each candidate the equal exposure we request that you limit your response to a simple YES or NO for each question; any additional comments will not be reproduced in the materials we distribute to voters.

All responses must be returned by **Thursday, June 3, 2004.**

Please fax all returns to (202) 452-0739. Lloyd Wood with AMTAC will be responsible for collecting all responses.

Finally, also please sign at the bottom and list a staff contact and e-mail so that we may confirm the receipt of your faxed response.

Thank you for your participation in this educational effort.

Sincerely,



Roger Milliken
Co-Chair
American Manufacturing
Trade Action Coalition

&

CEO
Milliken & Co.
Spartanburg, SC



Roger W. Chastain
Member
National Council
of Textile Organizations

&

President
Mt. Vernon Mills
Greenville, SC



James B. Carson, Jr.
Member
National Textile Association

&

V.P. of Manufacturing
Sullivan-Carson, Inc.
York, SC

TEXTILE INDUSTRY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please FAX return to (202) 452-0739 by June 3!

1. Do you commit to the continuation of quota restraints on Chinese imports of textiles and apparel beyond December 31, 2004?

YES / NO.

2. Will you oppose any free trade agreement that would grant duty-free access to the U.S. market for goods that fail to use U.S. or signatory country fiber, yarn, thread, fabric, and fabric dyeing, finishing and printing?

YES / NO.

3. Will you vote against the proposed U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement that was negotiated in 2003 but has not yet been submitted to Congress?

YES / NO.

4. Will you oppose any reduction of U.S. textile and apparel tariffs through the World Trade Organization and any weakening of U.S. trade laws regarding unfair trade practices?

YES / NO.

5. Do you support preserving and expanding the Berry Amendment and other federal "Buy American" purchase requirements to ensure the survival of a viable textile and apparel component to America's military industrial base?

YES / NO.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Printed Name _____

Staff Contact _____

E-Mail _____ **Telephone** _____

FAX all responses to: (202) 452-0739 by June 3, 2004!