

<p>Led Industry TPP Effort</p>	<p>NCTO spearheaded the domestic textile industry’s effort to secure favorable textile provisions in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). NCTO staff and members engaged with U.S. government agencies at an unprecedented level and provided data-driven input, ultimately securing a yarn-forward rule of origin, reasonable duty phase-outs for sensitive products, and effective customs enforcement tools in the final text. TPP negotiations were concluded on October 5, 2015.</p>
<p>Pressed for Key Industry Objectives in TTIP</p>	<p>NCTO continued to supply advice to U.S. government agencies negotiating the U.S.-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Our input focused on the importance of including a yarn-forward rule of origin and the need to preserve buy-American procurement rules like the Berry Amendment. Four formal negotiating rounds were held in 2015.</p>
<p>Responded to Unfounded EGA Product Nominations</p>	<p>Negotiations are ongoing under the WTO Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) to eliminate duties on environmental technologies. A number of countries are misusing this process in an effort to gain unwarranted U.S. market access on dozens of textile-related products with no environmental linkage. NCTO vetted nominated products with our membership and worked with U.S. government agencies to ensure that this new agreement does not disadvantage U.S. textile producers by pressing for the complete dismissal of sensitive products.</p>
<p>Blocked Harmful Preference Programs in Congress</p>	<p>Congress pursued a number of trade issues in 2015 as part of Trade Promotion Authority legislation. NCTO led efforts to block repeated, vigorous attempts to renew Tariff Preference Levels with Nicaragua, Bahrain, and Morocco that undermine U.S. yarn and fabric exports. NCTO also blocked a one billion square meter giveaway to Nepal, successfully negotiating the program down to a limited package of duty preferences covering about \$1M in annual trade.</p>
<p>Represented Industry with DLA; Supported DOC Competitiveness Report</p>	<p>The new DLA Troop Support Commander invited NCTO to continue representing the textile industry on the agency-chaired Clothing & Textiles (C&T) Partners group. The group addresses ways to improve procurement issues that impact both DLA’s C&T purchasing operations and the industry’s ability to supply high-tech, value-added products. NCTO also advised the Department of Commerce (DOC) in its study of the competitiveness of the domestic textile industry, especially as it pertains to the Berry Amendment. NCTO arranged for DOC staff to tour several textile plants and will be hosting further discussions.</p>
<p>Initiated an Industry-Wide Public Relations Campaign</p>	<p>NCTO collaborated with the marketing and public relations agency Wray Ward to launch an industry rebranding campaign around the theme of American Textiles: We Make Amazing. The focus of the campaign is to highlight the U.S. textile industry’s broad array of innovative products and the essential role our products play in daily life. Wray Ward is bringing this theme to life by combining visual marketing with compelling member stories over video, print, and digital platforms.</p>
<p>Advanced Textile Customs Enforcement Measures</p>	<p>NCTO worked with Congress to develop and pass a bill to reauthorize Customs and Border Protection that takes significant steps to improve textile customs enforcement. Provisions were included that designate textiles and apparel as a Priority Trade Issue and mandate that textile enforcement be addressed at CBP educational seminars. The law also creates CBP programs for new and non-resident importers, a major priority in the industry-supported Textile Enforcement and Security Act (TESA).</p>
<p>Engaged on Flammability & Chemical Regulatory Issues</p>	<p>NCTO joined the furniture industry in petitioning the Consumer Product Safety Commission to adopt California’s new mandatory furniture flammability (smolder) regulation, TB 117-2013, as a national mandatory standard. In addition, NCTO formed two new working groups to address safety aspects of fluorinated chemicals used as water repellent/stain release and antimicrobial treatments that are being challenged by environmental groups. NCTO also engaged with state-level coalitions on chemical regulations that could impact member products.</p>