

<p>Supported Renewal of MTB Process and Fought Damaging Petitions</p>	<p>Having lapsed in 2012, the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) process was renewed by Congress in 2016 with the strong support of NCTO. NCTO members were encouraged to take full advantage of the new process by filing MTB petitions for necessary manufacturing inputs not available from U.S. producers. As part of this process, NCTO worked directly with member companies, the Commerce Department, and International Trade Commission to thoroughly review hundreds of MTB petitions and register objections to petitions that would directly hurt U.S. textile manufacturers.</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 2016.</p>
<p>Responded to Unfounded EGA Product Nominations</p>	<p>Negotiations continued in 2016 on a WTO Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) to eliminate duties on environmental technologies. Several 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 textile products.</p>
<p>Blocked Harmful Changes to the Berry Amendment</p>	<p>Several attempts were made during the FY2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to weaken or bypass the way the Defense Department sources textile products under the Berry Amendment. NCTO staff led broad industry coalitions to preserve the current simplified acquisition program threshold, end a voucher program for foreign-made athletic shoes, and specifically exempt Berry from changes made to the acquisition of commercial goods.</p>
<p>TextilePAC Raised Industry Profile in Washington</p>	<p>The TextilePAC is an important complement to NCTO's advocacy efforts in Washington. Thanks to the active participation of NCTO member companies, the TextilePAC raised \$341,630 and contributed a combined \$252,000 to candidates for the House and Senate in the just completed two-year election cycle.</p>
<p>Represented Industry with DLA; Supported Commerce Department Competitiveness Report</p>	<p>NCTO represents the U.S. textile industry on the DLA-Troop Support (DLA-TS) Commander's Clothing & Textiles (C&T) Partners group, which fosters open communications throughout the C&T supply chain. This unique role enables the NCTO Government Textiles Committee to maintain a close business relationship with senior DLA-TS management, DLA's director, and other senior military leaders that impact military textiles. NCTO also continues its work as the coordinator of a congressional study on the competitiveness of the domestic textile industry, especially as it relates to the Berry Amendment. The Commerce Department's industry survey is underway, and the final report is expected later in 2017.</p>
<p>Continued an Industry-Wide Public Relations Campaign</p>	<p>NCTO implemented the "American Textiles: We Make Amazing" industry rebranding campaign in collaboration with marketing/PR firm Wray Ward. As part of this effort, NCTO published the inaugural edition of <i>Textures</i> magazine, garnered an ad equivalency value of \$1.3 million in earned media, initiated a paid electronic search ad and media advertising campaign, launched a planned Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn social media campaign, and revitalized NCTO's weekly <i>Textiles in the News</i> and quarterly <i>NCTO Newsletter</i>.</p>
<p>Supported AFFOA</p>	<p>The Advanced Functional Fabrics of America's (AFFOA) first year anniversary is April 1, and since its inception NCTO, as a member of AFFOA, has guided interested companies and other organizations to the proper location within AFFOA for answering questions and discussing membership. AFFOA's budget is now more than \$300 million, and interest is growing on revolutionizing the manufacture of textile products by transforming traditional fibers, yarns, and fabrics into highly sophisticated, integrated, and networked devices and systems.</p>
<p>Engaged on Regulatory Issues</p>	<p>At the request of the Board, the NCTO Regulatory and Standards Committee implemented a system to track national and state-level chemical regulatory issues that could unfairly impact the U.S. textile industry and provide an early alert when chemical safety issues affecting textiles are raised. The industry is also participating in a regulatory proceeding in California focused at examining the safety aspects of performance finishes that enable textiles to be soil resistant, stain resistant, and water repellent.</p>