

TEXTILES AND OUR MILITARY

Spring 2018

The U.S. textile industry provides high-tech and functional components for over \$1.8 billion worth of vital uniforms and equipment for our armed forces each year. The Department of Defense estimates that over 8,000 different textile items are purchased for use by the U.S. military, and this figure rises to over 30,000 line items when individual sizes are considered. As domestic suppliers, U.S. textile mills provide the highest quality goods on a timetable that our armed forces demand.

The Berry Amendment

Under the law known as the Berry Amendment, all apparel and other goods made of textiles purchased by the U.S. military are required to contain 100% U.S. fibers, yarns, and fabrics. Additionally, the textile and apparel goods must be cut and assembled in the U.S. The Berry Amendment ensures that critical U.S. military needs are not dependent on goods provided by foreign countries — thus mitigating a potentially serious national security issue.

In recent years, several attempts have been made during consideration of the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to weaken sourcing requirements for some products — including textiles, apparel, and footwear — covered under the Berry Amendment. NCTO has strongly opposed efforts to undermine the integrity of Berry, leading broad coalitions of U.S. manufacturers who supply the material needs of our military.

NCTO Position

It is vital that the U.S. military maintain the ability to source high-quality, innovative textile materials, apparel, and personal equipment from U.S. textile producers. Key to this goal is maintaining the integrity of the Berry Amendment and a vibrant domestic industrial base. To that end, NCTO opposes any measure that would weaken the Berry Amendment.