



February 23, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
 and Science
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
 and Science
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
 and Science
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Wolf
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
 and Science
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Wolf:

We the undersigned are trade associations that represent the overwhelming majority of our nation's over 500,000 yarn, fabric, apparel and home furnishings workers. We are writing to express strong support of continued funding for both the Textile/Clothing Technology Corporation [TC]² and the National Textile Center (NTC).

As you are aware, funding for these two important programs has traditionally been included in the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill. This funding has supported a wide array of basic and applied research programs, as well as demonstration and education efforts designed to enhance the competitiveness of the U.S. textile and apparel industries. These two organizations operate synergistically through unique collaborative structures. For example, the NTC combines the knowledge

and expertise of the nation's eight leading textile research universities while [TC] ² is a consortium of fiber, fabric and apparel producers, organized labor groups, and retailers.

Among other things, [TC]² and NTC research has focused on the enhancement of critical industry and national needs, such as protective clothing, biomedical textiles, electronics, alternative energy sources, mass customization, body scanning, 3D product development, the digital supply chain and environmental sustainability. The goal is to assist in transforming the U.S. textile and apparel sector into a highly flexible supply chain, capable of responding to rapidly changing market demands.

Clearly these two research consortiums are critical components of the U.S. industry's ongoing effort to remain globally competitive. Furthermore we believe that funding for these programs is especially critical in this difficult economic period. The research conducted through these two programs plays a major role in helping to enhance the competitiveness of an industry that is a primary supplier of employment to women and minority workers, with many of these jobs located in depressed rural areas, as well as major inner cities. Moreover, we believe that these organizations have been excellent stewards of past funding provided by Congress. For these reasons, we strongly encourage you to assign \$10 million for the NTC and \$3.5 million for [TC]².

Thank you for your consideration of our request in regard to the FY 2010 CJS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC)
Hosiery Technology Center (HTC)
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI)
National Association for the Sewn Products Industry (SEAMS)
National Cotton Council of America (NCC)
National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)
National Textile Association (NTA)
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)
Sewn Products Equipment & Suppliers of the Americas (SPESA)
The Hosiery Association (THA)
United States Industrial Fabrics Institute (USIFI)