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For Immediate Release

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Talks Offer Great Potential to Promote U.S. Jobs and U.S. Exports

TPP Apparel Coalition Urges Negotiators to Spur Economic Growth in Apparel and Textiles

Chicago, IL – As the 8th round of TPP negotiations wind down in Chicago, Illinois today, the [Trans-Pacific Partnership \(TPP\) Apparel Coalition](#) is encouraged by the strong commitment by our TPP partner countries to develop thoughtful textile and apparel policies that spur new trade and investment.

“In Chicago, we were delighted to see the enthusiasm from our TPP partner countries to establish modern textile and apparel rules that can sustain millions of jobs that rely on global value chains. Such rules would maximize TPP benefits for U.S. companies, consumers and workers,” said the coalition. **“The TPP discussions on textiles are still in the very early stages, and we look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to write rules that promote U.S. jobs and U.S. innovation while fostering trade and investment among TPP partners. Outdated ‘yarn-forward’ style rules of origin are unworkable in today’s global value chains. Such an ‘all or nothing’ approach would not spur new U.S. exports or new apparel trade or new investment in the textile and apparel sector.”**

When considering ways to create new opportunities in the TPP for apparel, it is important to keep in mind the value and jobs created throughout the entire global value chain. A global value chain includes the full range of activities that firms and workers do to bring a product from concept to the final customer. This includes the manufacturing, design, production, marketing, distribution, retail and support to the final customer.

The Chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on International Trade, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), recognizes this modern reality and also strongly demonstrated his support for updated rules on apparel by widely circulating a [letter](#) addressed to Ambassador Kirk during the talks.

“The best [rules] for creating more high skilled, well-compensated American workers is one that promotes finished apparel production within the TPP community, and that is something the yarn-forward rule will not do,” Wyden wrote.

“We thank Senator Wyden for his continued support on this important issue and hope that others will join him in pressing for new rules on apparel as we move into the next round of negotiations,” the Coalition concluded.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Apparel Coalition supports negotiation of a 21st Century TPP agreement that generates new trade and investment opportunities for the benefit of workers, businesses, and families. These opportunities include buying and selling goods and services, sustaining and growing well-paying jobs, and providing high added value for the U.S. and TPP economies. Please visit <http://www.tppapparelcoalition.org> for information, the coalition’s position paper and other resources from the TPP Apparel Coalition.

Background

Trans-Pacific Partnership

The TPP is an Asia-Pacific regional trade agreement currently being negotiated among the United States and eight other partners -- Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

American Apparel & Footwear Association

The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn products companies, and their suppliers, which compete in the global market. AAFA's mission is to promote and enhance its members' competitiveness, productivity and profitability in the global market by minimizing regulatory, commercial, political, and trade restraints.

National Retail Federation

As the world's largest retail trade association and the voice of retail worldwide, the National Retail Federation's global membership includes retailers of all sizes, formats and channels of distribution as well as chain restaurants and industry partners from the U.S. and more than 45 countries abroad. In the U.S., NRF represents the breadth and diversity of an industry with more than 1.6 million American companies that employ nearly 25 million workers and generated 2010 sales of \$2.4 trillion.

Outdoor Industry Association

Outdoor Industry Association® (OIA) is a national trade association whose mission is to ensure the growth and success of the outdoor industry. OIA provides trade services for over 4000 manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, sales representatives and retailers in the outdoor industry. OIA programs include representation in government/legislative affairs, market and social research, business-to-business services and youth outreach initiatives. Educational events include the annual Rendezvous, Outdoor University, and the Capitol Summit. Outdoor Industry Association is based in Boulder, Colorado, and is the title sponsor of the Outdoor Retailer tradeshow. For more information go to outdoorindustry.org or call 303.444.3353.

Retail Industry Leaders Association

RILA is the trade association of the world's largest and most innovative retail companies. RILA members include more than 200 retailers, product manufacturers, and service suppliers, which together account for more than \$1.5 trillion in annual sales, millions of American jobs and more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities and distribution centers domestically and abroad.

United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel

The United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel (USA-ITA) was established in January 1989 by nine companies with a vision to create a unified voice for textile and apparel importers across the country. USA-ITA provides education, information, and advocacy to executives active in textile and apparel sourcing, importing, compliance, and logistics. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., USA-ITA represents the needs of American retailers, brands and importers, as well as related service providers, with the objective to remove barriers to business and to trade.

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