



Dear Senator,

January 30, 2009

On behalf of the undersigned labor, fiber and textile manufacturing groups, we strongly urge you to support to the expanded Buy American provisions (Section 1604) within S.336, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan. The language in the provision requires that textile goods, as well as other manufactured products, that are procured in the stimulus package must be sourced from within the United States.

We are concerned that there will be an attempt to remove or modify these vitally important provisions to the U.S. economy and to U.S. workers when the bill comes to the Senate floor next week. We strongly urge you to oppose any such attempts.

The U.S. textile industry has been the cornerstone of the economic stability in many of our rural towns and communities. Yet nearly 60,000 textile and apparel jobs have been lost within the last twelve months and 44 textile plants have closed.

The expansion of the Buy American provision within the recovery package would lend the industry a needed stimulus to maintain and create textile and other manufacturing jobs at a time when workers across the country are suffering from this unprecedented economic downturn. Moreover, we believe that it is only logical that the stimulus funds contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act be used to provide the widest and greatest impact possible for our national economy. The language contained in Section 1604 will ensure that the stimulus funds actually meet that critical objective.

At a time when our country is experiencing the highest unemployment rate in over the 15 years, the recovery package must encompass provisions that will create jobs upon enactment. The Buy American provisions as drafted in Section 1604 must be preserved.

We urge to strongly oppose any attempts to weaken or modify this language.

Sincerely,

American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC)
National Cotton Council (NCC)
National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)
National Textile Association (NTA)
UNITE-HERE
United States Industrial Fabrics Institute (USIFI)