



For Immediate Release

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AAFA Reaffirms Opposition to Undemocratic Workforce Bill Burke Urges Senate to Oppose Measure

March 1, 2007 – Arlington, VA – American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) President and Chief Executive Officer Kevin M. Burke reaffirmed strong opposition to the so-called Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 800).

Burke stated, “This legislation would take privacy, power and voice away from America’s working people when choosing to establish and recognize a union. It is a step backward for workers rights in our country.”

This legislation would directly impact many workers and their right to a secret ballot vote in the workplace when deciding if they will be represented by a union for collective bargaining purposes. Further, it would force workers to make their vote public and cause intimidation, workplace instability, and potentially physical threats. By replacing the secret ballot vote with a simple card check process, the legislation would constitute an assault on democracy, privacy, and security in the workplace.

The legislation was rushed through the House of Representatives today on a vote of 241 to 185. It may now be considered by the Senate where the fate of the legislation is uncertain. President George W. Bush has already announced he will veto the legislation if it reaches his desk.

Burke called upon all Senators to vote against this bill should it be brought to the Senate floor. “This attack on workplace democracy must not be allowed to become law,” Burke added.

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The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn products companies, and their suppliers, including several dozen U.S. textile companies, 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.