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Contact: Dawn Van Dyke
(703)797-9056 Office
(703)864-4062 Cell

dvandyke@apparelandfootwear.org

AAFA Supports Congress' Renewal of the Burmese Product Import Ban
President Bush's Approval Needed Before Current Ban Expires this Weekend

Arlington, VA (Friday, July 25, 2008) – Today, [American Apparel & Footwear Association \(AAFA\)](http://www.apparelandfootwear.org) President and CEO Kevin M. Burke thanked Congress for approving legislation (H.J. Res 93/S.J. Res 41) to renew the comprehensive import ban against Burma for another year, due to the ruling military junta's horrific human rights violations. The AAFA now looks forward to President Bush's timely signature of this legislation before the clock runs out on the current economic sanctions July 26.

"The American Apparel & Footwear Association has led the clarion call for economic sanctions against the military junta ruling Burma since the inception of this legislation," said Burke. "As we inch toward a more democratic world, America and the rest of the world must remain vigilant against the types of tyranny and human rights atrocities committed by the junta."

Set to expire this weekend, the import ban on products from Burma, a provision of the *Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003*, must be renewed annually by Congress and the President. The resolution, one of two Burmese-related pieces of legislation before Congress this week, was approved yesterday by the U.S. Senate. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the legislation on Tuesday by a voice vote. The legislation was introduced in the House on June 5, 2008 by U.S. Representatives Joseph Crowley (D-NY) and Peter King (R-NY), and in the U.S. Senate on June 12, 2008 by U.S. Senators Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and John McCain (R-AZ).

"This extension of the import ban on the Burmese regime is particularly timely in light of the military junta's alarming response to the cyclone disaster earlier this year," stated Burke. "That was a chillingly reminder of the terrible treatment of the Burmese people by its own tyrannical government."

"It is unfortunate that more countries have not followed the United States in implementing economic sanctions against the Burmese junta," Burke added. "As long as the world is willing to do business with the military junta ruling Burma, progress and hope for the Burmese people will be stymied."

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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, 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.