



**For Immediate Release**

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## Legislation to Eliminate Performance Outerwear Import Duties Introduced *AAFA Urges Congressional Support*

**Arlington, VA (Wednesday, July 16, 2008)** – Yesterday, U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) introduced the *Recreational Performance Outerwear Apparel Act of 2008 (HR 6483)*, legislation that, if approved by Congress, would provide duty-free status for U.S. imports of recreational performance outerwear. The legislation builds on a recent International Trade Commission (ITC) study showing that there is no U.S. domestic production of such products for the commercial market. The bill has broad support throughout the U.S. apparel industry and was developed in close consultation with the U.S. textile industries.

“The American Apparel & Footwear Association is continually striving to lower and eliminate trade barriers,” said **Kevin M. Burke, president and CEO of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)**. “AAFA welcomes this progressive legislation and looks forward to working with Congress and the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) toward successful passage of the *Recreational Performance Outerwear Apparel Act of 2008*.”

“The current U.S. tariff system is antiquated and needs to be continually reviewed,” continued Burke. “When there are no domestic manufacturers left for certain products, but ineffectual tariffs remain on the books anyway – the American consumer is hurt.”

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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.*