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Congress Requests China Import Monitoring

Arlington, VA (Thursday, October 09, 2008) – Today, U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY) sent a letter to the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) requesting a textile and apparel imports monitoring program to collect data on currently quota-protected products. The Chairman and others in the textile community are concerned about a dramatic increase in import levels and drop in prices when the quotas expire on December 31.

“Considering the many tools available to the Chairman and the ITC as we approach the end of quotas on Chinese imports, this request for a study is not a surprise,” said **American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) President and CEO Kevin M. Burke.**

Chairman Rangel is asking the Commission to collect data regarding the volume, value, unit value and import market share of import products covered by the expiring memorandum of understanding on textile and apparel between US and China. The ITC would report the preliminary data every two weeks and once a month final statistics would be published. There is no stated end date for the monitoring program.

“While the monitoring program may not result in any protectionist actions, its existence does create apprehension that action may be taken in the near future,” explained Burke. “This concern of not knowing what will happen next creates uncertainty in the market at a time when predictability is more important than ever.”

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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.