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Contact: Dawn Van Dyke
(703)797-9056 Office
(703)864-4062 Cell
dvandyke@apparelandfootwear.org

Economic Stimulus Package Needs Immediate Impact; Include the Affordable Footwear Act Now

*Statement by Kevin M. Burke, President and CEO
American Apparel & Footwear Association*

“Our nation’s financial markets continue to be in crisis today, which means hardworking American families are suffering and need urgent relief. Any economic stimulus package considered by the Congress needs to meaningfully address the pressing needs of troubled middle-America. The *Affordable Footwear Act* is a responsible, tangible tax break for all Americans, which would immediately stimulate the economy.

“The *Affordable Footwear Act* eliminates the import tariffs, collectively known as the shoe tax, on all lower- to moderately-priced footwear as well as all children’s shoes, or about 60 percent of all shoes sold in the United States. The depression-era shoe tax was implemented to protect the domestic footwear industry. The regressive shoe tax on footwear imports is highest – as much as 67 percent – on the least expensive shoes. The cost is necessarily passed on to consumers at the cash register as a hidden, regressive shoe tax that can be nearly 40 percent of the retail price of a pair of shoes. That extra 40 percent can add up quickly and be a burden for America’s hardworking families. Today, with 99 percent of all footwear sold in America being imported, the shoe tax has out-lived its purpose, is unavoidable and needs to be abolished for the sake of America’s families.

“Please stomp out the shoe tax by including the *Affordable Footwear Act* in the next economic stimulus package.”

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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. Learn more at www.apparelandfootwear.org or www.endtheshoetax.org.