



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **U.S./ Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Passed** *Andean Trade Preference Act Still Needed ASAP*

**Washington, D.C. (Tuesday, December 04, 2007)** – Today, the U.S. Senate passed the U.S./ Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA) (HR 3688), 77 – 18, previously negotiated by the Bush Administration, and approved by the U.S. House of Representatives in November. The **American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)** applauded this victory and urged President Bush to sign and implement the final legislation quickly. In advance of today’s vote, AAFA had submitted a [key vote letter](#) to all Senators urging them to vote ‘Yes’.

“AAFA is pleased the U.S./ Peru TPA has cleared Congress,” praised **Kevin M. Burke, President and CEO, AAFA**. “But, as it stands, there will be a risky gap in benefits between when the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) expires and when the new U.S./ Peru TPA is implemented.” The current ATPA legislation expires February 29, 2008.

The ATPA is a key trade initiative that allows Peru and other Andean nations duty-free access to the U.S. market when U.S. textile inputs are used in the final product. The Andean region has become an important market for U.S. cotton farmers, yarn spinners and fabric mills. For this reason, an unprecedented coalition of representatives from the entire U.S. textile and apparel supply chain – from cotton to consumer – previously wrote a [joint-letter to Congress](#) and the [Bush Administration](#) outlining the urgent need for a predictable relationship with the Andean region through an immediate renewal of the Andean Trade Preference Act.

“There will be a rude shock on March 1, 2008, if trade benefits are interrupted because Congress failed to pass an Andean renewal to bridge this gap,” continued Burke. “We ultimately need permanent, comprehensive free trade agreements with countries in the region, like Peru, Panama and Colombia, to avoid this uncertainty.”

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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.*