



KEY VOTE

VOTE YES ON KEY CARIBBEAN BASIN TRADE AND CUSTOMS PROGRAMS IN FARM BILL (HR 2419)

May 14, 2008

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), the national trade association of the apparel and footwear industries, and their suppliers, I am writing to advise you that AAFA has key voted as a YES VOTE the Farm Bill (HR 2419) because of the inclusion of the following Caribbean Basin Trade and Customs provisions.

- **Section 15408** would extend the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) – which currently expires on September 30, 2008 – for an additional two years.
- **Sections 15401 – 15412** enhances the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act (HOPE),. That provision also makes urgent technical corrections and extends the HOPE program for ten years to provide certainty and predictability. Taken together with the extension of the CBTPA, this provision will provide new market access and trade incentives to further our trade partnership with Haiti.
- **Section 15422** contains a Sense of Congress resolution to prevent Customs and Border Protection (CBP) from taking further action to revoke the so-called First Sale rule. Without consulting Congress or stakeholders, or doing any economic analysis, CBP recently proposed eliminating this popular customs valuation method, ignoring 20 years of legal precedent. Section 15422 would prevent CBP from taking this unprecedented and precipitous action, while providing Congress and CBP additional information to evaluate this policy in the future.

Because of the inclusion of the aforementioned provisions, we again urge you to VOTE YES on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin M. Burke'.

Kevin M. Burke
President and CEO