



Key Vote
YES ON H.R.3688

December 3, 2007

Dear Senator:

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 Senate consideration of HR 3688, the United States/Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act.

I strongly urge you to vote **YES** on this important legislation.

HR 3688 will implement the U.S./Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA), which was negotiated during the past few years. Once it takes effect, the U.S./Peru TPA will transform our existing one-way temporary preference program with Peru into a permanent and reciprocal trade and economic partnership.

The existing preference program has allowed Peru and other Andean countries to compete with lower cost suppliers in Asia. Under the program, Andean garment manufacturers have been able to get duty-free access to the U.S. market when they use U.S. textile inputs. As a result, the Andean region has emerged as an important market for U.S. cotton farmers, yarn spinners and fabric mills. Most of the garments we import from the Andean region today are made largely from U.S. textile inputs.

The U.S./Peru TPA will build on the success of that program to ensure that Peru can remain a competitive partner for our textile and apparel industry in this hemisphere. It is no surprise that swift approval of the U.S./Peru TPA has earned the support of the entire textile and apparel supply chain, from cotton to the consumer.

If the U.S./Peru TPA is not approved, sourcing will migrate away from Peru and the Andean region to other parts of the world. Because garments sourced in other regions are less likely to contain U.S. inputs, this shift in sourcing would deny the U.S. textile industry of an important export market. Make no mistake about it: A vote against Peru is a vote against the U.S. textile and apparel industry.

I urge you to **VOTE YES** on HR 3688 to approve the U.S./Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin M. Burke'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'K'.

Kevin M. Burke
President and CEO