INMAN MILLS

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June 22, 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sandy Levin
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

I am writing to let you know of our company's support of duty suspension legislation for rayon fiber. Legislation to suspend the duty on rayon fiber was introduced by Representative Sue Myrick and the bill number is **H.R. 4584** – to suspend duties on staple fibers of rayon. H.R. 4584 has a Senate companion bill, S.3092.

Inman Mills is a leading producer of textiles in the United States for apparel, industrial, military, and specialty markets. When developing products using this fiber, we are at a competitive disadvantage with other fabric producers in the world due to no rayon production in the United States.

Rayon fiber is a manufactured fiber composed of regenerated cellulose. Generally, in the manufacture of rayon, cellulose derived from wood pulp, cotton linters, or other vegetable matter is dissolved into a viscose spinning solution. The solution is extruded into an acid-salt coagulating bath and drawn into continuous filaments. Groups of these filaments may be made in the form of yarns or cut into staple. Rayon has many uses including apparel: dresses, blouses, jackets, trousers, and sportswear. Additionally, rayon has important uses in the manufacture of home furnishings and industrial products.

Rayon fibers are no longer produced in the United States. Therefore, an extension of the current duty suspension on these fibers is necessary and would improve the international competitiveness of my company and the various other industries that utilize these fibers. Due to the fact that all U.S. production of rayon fiber has ceased, the continued suspension of this duty should have no adverse consequences for domestic businesses and should not attract controversy. In addition, the duty advantage my company gains will be shared amongst the domestic textile industry and will deliver downstream benefits to our customers and promote job creation.

The U.S. textile industry is already facing tremendous market pressures due to unfair competition from low cost producing countries like China and Vietnam. Together these countries import more than 50 percent of all apparel into the United States. The textile industries in both China and Vietnam are heavily subsidized by the governments and are state owned which dramatically drives down costs and shifts market share away from the Western Hemisphere. The Western Hemisphere is the domestic industry's major trading platform, loss of market share shrinks profit margins and costs U.S. jobs.

If our industry is forced to absorb duties on imported rayon fibers, many of us will be unable to compete and will be forced to exit the market for our product lines that utilize these fibers. If this happens, dozens of plants and thousands of workers across the country will be adversely affected.

We understand that Congress has provided the duty suspension process to address situations such as this, and we strongly encourage the Committee and Congress to enact this measure prior to its expiration on December 31, 2012.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information on this request.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

William E. Bowen, Jr.
Inman Mills
Vice President, Purchasing