



June 15, 2012

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

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

RE: NCTO Opposition to H.R. 4973

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

The National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), a trade association representing the U.S. textile industry is strongly opposed to H.R. 4973. Most importantly, H.R. 4973 covers a sleeping bag carry case product already made in the United States or which is assembled using U.S. yarn.

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 50 percent of all textile and 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.

The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill is intended to promote manufacturing and jobs in the United States by providing limited tariff relief (up to \$500,000 for any specific tariff line) to domestic manufacturers who use inputs that are not available from a domestic source, not as a vehicle to vastly increase the profit margins of importers and retailers of finished goods to the detriment of U.S. manufacturers.

If our industry is forced to absorb duties on certain inputs that are no longer commercially available in the U.S. and the above product is allowed to be imported duty free it will cause serious damage to the domestic industry and further hamper our competitiveness. If this happens, dozens of plants and thousands of workers across the country will be adversely affected.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the bills included as part of the Senate Miscellaneous Tariff Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cass Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cass Johnson  
President