



November 24, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 2532

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

This is to sincerely request your support for S.2532 that will extend the much needed existing temporary duty suspension on specific cotton shirting fabrics and refund a portion of the duty.

Supima is the organization that represents the producers of Extra-Long Staple cotton (American Pima) in the states of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The shirting fabric being imported into the United States is made primarily from American Pima cotton, any duty on this fabric makes it uncompetitive, as other countries continue to import finished shirts into the U.S. duty free. Canada has acted years ago to enact a duty remission program on shirting fabric, and therefore, their manufacturers have competitive advantages when importing shirts to this country.

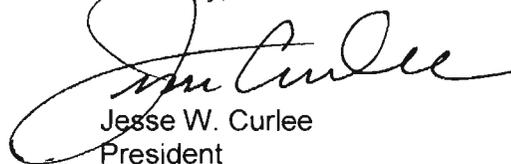
At one time this duty was necessary to protect U.S. fabric manufacturers, but today there are no fine count yarns (Extra-Long Staple cotton) shirting fabric manufacturers remaining in the United States. The bill will help insure a healthy shirting manufacturing industry and prevent job losses.

Because of the duty suspensions the last two years, our organization has experienced renewed growth in consumer demand. Due to this increased demand, we are expecting a 20-30% increase in American Pima production next season. This is a direct result of imported shirting fabric made from American Pima cotton being competitive with shirts being imported abroad.

Our organization will also be increasing advertising/promotion of these products to the consumer. Supima recently began working with two large American retailers to engage in a major campaign for shirts made with our cotton in the USA.

We respectfully request your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Jesse W. Curlee  
President

JWC:nb

**Supima**

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