



June 7, 2002

The Hon. Phil Crane
Chairman
Subcommittee on Trade of the
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Via Email and Fax (202) 225-2610

Ref: Request for Comments on Misc. Duty Bill (TR-9 and TR-9 Revised)

Dear Chairman Crane:

On behalf of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) – the national trade association of the apparel and nonrubber footwear industries – I am writing to provide comments on selected bills that were identified in the captioned request for comments on miscellaneous duty and trade legislation.

HR 4217/HR 4218: AAFA strongly supports this legislation, which was proposed on behalf of an AAFA member company, Harodite Industries. This legislation relates to a unique, technical yarn that, because it contains 10 percent or more by weight of nylon 12, has no domestic alternative or substitute. We refer you to submitted statements by Harodite Industries for more information on this legislation.

HR 4449: AAFA supports this legislation, noting that the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements recently found these products to be in short supply (not produced in commercial quantities) in the United States for the purposes of the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA).

HR 4583: AAFA does not support this legislation for inclusion in this package, as it does not appear to meet the non-controversial threshold required for inclusion in this package. Several AAFA members produce an identical product and have reported that they would be harmed if this provision were enacted.

HR 1589: AAFA strongly supports this legislation. We would suggest that the issues addressed in this bill be reviewed as well as part of a package of corrections to the CBTPA now pending as part of HR 3009.

HR 4158: Although AAFA has not yet taken a formal position with respect to the coverage of this specific bill, we support the liberalization of imports of nonrubber footwear, including those that currently face a restrictive NAFTA rule and higher NAFTA duty rates under the CBTPA. We would suggest that the issues addressed in this bill be reviewed as well as part of a package of corrections to the CBTPA now pending as part of HR 3009. We would also suggest that, instead of HR 4158, you review HR 4848, which we believe takes a more constructive approach and positively reflects additional input and further consideration on this issue.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Lamar", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Lamar
Sr. Vice President