



AMERICAN TEXTILE
MANUFACTURERS INSTITUTE

June 6, 2002

Statement on Behalf of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute Regarding H.R. 4216

The American Textile Manufacturers Institute (ATMI) would like to register its views regarding H.R. 4216. ATMI is the national trade association for the domestic textile industry, which employs approximately 435,000 workers nationwide.

ATMI supports congressional passage of H.R. 4216, which would temporarily suspend the duty on certain textile machinery used by U.S. textile manufacturers. The machines in question are shuttle type power looms less than 4.9 meters in width. These looms are absolutely essential to producers of certain types of woven fabric. ATMI member companies utilizing such machinery would benefit from this legislation.

We would like to point out two minor typographical errors in the description of these looms printed in the second column. "Drop wires" should be two words, not one, and the word immediately following that should be "heddles," not "needles." We would urge that these be corrected to avoid any confusion.

We have previously confirmed with the American Textile Machinery Association that there is no domestic production of these machines and that they have no objections to this proposal. In fact, we are not aware of any opposition to suspending this duty. The current revenues generated by this duty are less than \$500,000, thus meeting the standard criterion for duty suspension.

Similar legislation was enacted in the 106th Congress but has recently expired. Passage of this bill would free up needed capital for U.S. textile manufacturers at a time when our industry is struggling to recover from its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Accordingly, ATMI urges enactment of this measure.

If you have any questions, please call Charles Bremer, ATMI's Vice President of International Trade, at (202) 862-0500.

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