

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

Our congressional districts represent the multifaceted U.S. textile industry, and the 453,000 American workers it employs. Providing more than \$65 billion in annual economic output, the industry is an essential supplier of both cutting-edge military textiles to our warfighters and lifesaving personal protective equipment (PPE) to our healthcare providers.

Unfortunately, for decades, the American textile industry has suffered greatly from customs fraud and abuse by foreign competitors and organized crime. Our trade policies and tariff structures are only as effective as their enforcement. As you begin your role as Secretary, we urge you to review and ensure the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is properly oriented and outfitted to fully enforce our customs laws.

Customs fraud is especially common in the textile industry as a result of the high volume of duties collected by the U.S. on imported clothing and the large number of suppliers in the market. Countries such as China and Vietnam dominate the global textile market, accounting for over 35 percent of total textile and apparel imports in our market<sup>1</sup>, and have a long history of using unfair trade practices.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, CBP reported \$13.2 billion collected by the U.S. in textile related duties and fees, nearly 17 percent of all U.S. duties collected. While sector-by-sector data for FY 2025 has not yet been released, the International Trade Commission reports \$25 billion has been collected in textile-related duties in calendar year 2025<sup>2</sup> — which will only continue to grow in FY 2026 due to a full twelve-month's worth of collections under the current tariff regime. The Department of Commerce reports over one hundred countries export textile and apparel goods to the United States, routinely exceeding \$100 billion in value per year.<sup>3</sup>

With billions in duty revenue at stake, and countless suppliers and countries involved, importers are incentivized to circumvent U.S. tariff and trade requirements. This complex system has been abused to purposefully undervalue or misclassify imported goods to pay lower duties. China and Vietnam's exports are often further corrupted by illegal subsidies, state sponsored production, forced labor, and a purposely devalued currency.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. International Trade Commission. "Trade Shifts Index: Textiles and Apparel." June 30, 2025. [www.usitc.gov/research\\_and\\_analysis/tradeshifts/2024/textiles](http://www.usitc.gov/research_and_analysis/tradeshifts/2024/textiles).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. International Trade Commission's DataWeb.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Customs and Border Protection publication #3965-0125. "FY 2025 Fact Sheet: Textile Priority Trade Issue." January 16, 2025.

<sup>4</sup> National Council of Textile Organizations. Request for Comments on the operation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, 90 FR 44869 (Docket ID: USTR-2025-0004). November 3, 2025.

Additionally, U.S. free trade agreements (FTAs) have resulted in targeted transshipping by countries without agreements to take advantage of significantly reduced tariff levels. These transshipped products, which do not meet the agreements' origin requirements, are falsely declared as "qualifying goods" to gain duty-free or lower duty entry for imports not eligible for preferential treatment.<sup>5</sup> Failure to detect and penalize customs fraud allows the benefits of these agreements to flow through to third parties who are not signatories to those agreements.

As you settle into your leadership role, we urge the Department of Homeland Security to develop and institute a comprehensive textile enforcement program. This program should safeguard the interests of the domestic textile industry while also preventing unscrupulous shippers and importers from robbing the U.S. Treasury of billions of dollars of textile-related tariff revenue. Such a plan should include several key elements:

- Maximum fines and penalties (civil and criminal) for repeat violators.
- Blacklisting importers for repeat violations and revocation of trade privileges, including denial of preferential access to the U.S. market.
- Publicly listing importers who intentionally and continually violate trade laws.
- Increased customs enforcement for FTA qualifying duty-free goods.
- Increase onsite enforcement to offshore FTA production sites to verify rules of origin.
- Timely publication of textile enforcement statistics.
- Lab testing (including isotopic) of imports claiming FTA qualifying benefits to determine the origin of component parts contained in the goods.
- Frequent audits of U.S. content in goods subject to penalty tariffs.
- Incentivize good actors with excellent compliance records through programs like the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT).

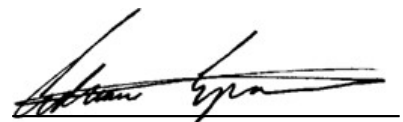
An enhanced enforcement program which directs and maximizes existing CBP resources to effectively address illegal activity damaging legitimate textile manufacturers in the U.S. and our FTA partner countries will result in better compliance with U.S. trade laws.

We stand ready to work with you to address customs enforcement resources for congressionally designated Priority Trade Issues like textiles and wearing apparel.

Sincerely,



David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

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<sup>5</sup> National Council of Textile Organizations. Request for Comments on the operation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, 90 FR 44869 (Docket ID: USTR-2025-0004). November 3, 2025.



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Tim Moore  
Member of Congress



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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



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William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress



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Pat Harrigan  
Member of Congress



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Addison P. McDowell  
Member of Congress



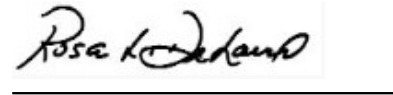
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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



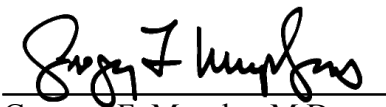
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Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



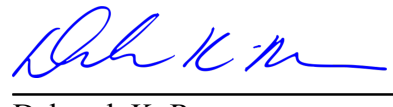
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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



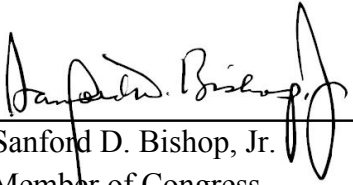
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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress




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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Chuck Edwards  
Member of Congress