National Policy Research Center
AT ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

October 30, 2026

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for the Buying American Cotton Act (H.R. 7230 / S. 1919)

Dear Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the National Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University, I write to express our strong support for the Buying American Cotton Act and to respectfully ask for your help in securing its inclusion in a year-end package for final passage.

The National Policy Research Center, formerly the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center (Policy Center), was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 through the leadership of Congressman Bennie G. Thompson and is housed at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi, the nation's oldest public historically Black land-grant institution. The Policy Center is national in scope, with a strategic focus on the eighteen states which are home to the 19 1890 land-grant universities. Its mission is to conduct research, analyze policy, and make recommendations that achieve equitable and economic integration of USDA programs and policies for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities, and to ensure Congress and other stakeholders have the data-driven information they need to serve them.

The states we serve include the heart of the Cotton Belt, from the Carolinas and Georgia through Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Virginia, and Texas. In many of the rural communities across this footprint, cotton is the economic foundation: it sustains small and family farms, gins, warehouses, local lenders, and the HBCU and 1890 land-grant institutions that have served these producers for generations. Our ultimate charge is to build opportunities for small, limited-resource farmers, and we believe the Buying American Cotton Act does exactly that.

This legislation is common sense. It builds structural, durable demand for a commodity grown in the United States by encouraging its purchase by consumers in the United States. By providing a tax credit for products made with U.S.-grown cotton and U.S.-manufactured yarns and fabrics, it puts American cotton in the hands of American consumers rather than ceding our own market to foreign competitors' products. That demand flows back through the supply chain to the farm gate and strengthens the rural economies that depend on it, extending to cotton the kind of demand-building policy that already supports other major U.S. crops.

The benefits reach beyond the farm economy. Our Nation's emerging understanding of microplastic pollution, much of it shed from synthetic fibers, points to real consequences for environmental health and a growing body of research linking microplastics to chronic disease. The Buying American Cotton Act reduces that risk directly: it displaces synthetic products on the shelf with a natural, biodegradable fiber grown and manufactured here at home. It is good policy for American farmers, for American consumers, and for the health of our land, water, and people.

The Policy Center is proud to partner with the American Cotton Shippers Association in recommending this legislation and in pursuit of our broader shared objectives for U.S. agriculture and the communities it sustains.

The Buying American Cotton Act is deeply bipartisan and bicameral, with 123 cosponsors. Congresswoman Terri Sewell of Alabama is the original Democratic lead on the Committee on Ways and Means. She has been a tireless champion for agriculture, for rural America, for the Congressional Black Caucus, and for our Policy Center. We call on you to help us support Congresswoman Sewell, the other 18 Congressional Black Caucus Members, and other colleagues in having the Buying American Cotton Act included in a year-end package for final passage.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical request and for your continued support of our institution and our collective objectives.

Sincerely,



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cc: The Honorable Richard E. Neal, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Terri A. Sewell, U.S. House of Representatives