November 18, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, and Minority Leader Schumer:

The undersigned organizations, representing the entirety of the United States cotton industry and many of the nation's leading retailers, urge you to prioritize passage of the *Buying American Cotton Act* (H.R.7230/S.1919) before the end of this year.

The need to bolster the U.S. cotton industry has never been greater. America's cotton growers continue to face the crushing combination of low commodity prices and rising input costs, while also being squeezed by foreign competitors who can sell their fibers at lower prices thanks to subsidies provided by their own governments. Fortunately, American retailers are well-positioned to increase demand for domestically grown cotton. Their ability to source American fiber is critical to supporting rural economies and maintaining the global competitiveness of the American cotton industry.

The bipartisan *Buying American Cotton Act* establishes market-based incentives for these end-stage retailers to sell apparel and other goods produced, in whole or in part, from U.S. cotton. This demand-side incentive, in turn, directly encourages the selection of U.S. (vs. foreign) cotton and ultimately benefits U.S. cotton farmers through stronger market pull and more predictable buying patterns.

The credit amount in the *Buying American Cotton Act* is tied to the volume of U.S. cotton contained in the product, the three-year average market price of the cotton, and a processing location factor. Retailers selling goods in the U.S. that contain U.S. cotton that was fully processed in the U.S. or in countries with which the U.S. has a free trade agreement (including the signatories of USMCA and CAFTA-DR, as well as those that participate in preference programs such as AGOA, CBTPA, and Haiti HOPE/HELP) would receive the largest incentive. Retailers selling products containing U.S. cotton that was subject to processing in any other country would receive a smaller tax incentive. In all cases, the structure of the bill is intended to encourage greater overall purchase of U.S. cotton.

The legislation would:

- •Increase demand for U.S. cotton, thereby increasing market revenue for U.S. cotton farmers
- •Incentivize investment in the domestic textile milling industry to increase the capacity of U.S. cotton processing
- •Incentivize relocation of labor-intensive cotton apparel production activities to countries closer to the U.S., reducing costs and improving supply chain efficiencies
- •Create U.S. jobs in manufacturing, logistics, supply chain management, and other affiliated services
- •Level the playing field for U.S. farmers and retailers of cotton products who have to compete against subsidized foreign competitors
- •Support existing industry initiatives that address country-of-origin concerns
- •Support regional stability in Central and South America

The *Buying American Cotton Act* leverages the purchasing power of U.S. consumers who annually buy the equivalent of 40 million bales of textile and apparel products. Those consumers want to buy American, but only a small percentage of the cotton in products sold in the U.S. is estimated to be grown here.

Now is the time to act, and the *Buying American Cotton Act* offers a pathway. **This bill already has the support of over 120 cosponsors representing constituents across the entire country.** Passing this legislation would send a strong message to American farmers, American mills, American retailers – and ultimately American consumers.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Agricultural Council of Arkansas

Alabama Farmers Federation

Amcot

America Knits LLC

American Cotton Producers

American Cotton Shippers Association

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Trench

Arizona Cattle Feeders Association

Arizona Cotton Growers Association

Arizona Cotton Research and Protection Council

Arizona Farm & Ranch Group

Arizona Farm Bureau

Arkansas Cotton Warehouse Association

Arkansas Farm Bureau

Bajaj Coneagle LLC

Blackland Cotton and Grain Producers Association

Buhler Quality Yarns Corporation

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association

California Farm Bureau

Carter's, Inc.

Cherokee Fabrication Company Inc.

City Bank

Coed Collective

Cotton Growers Warehouse Association

Cotton Producers of Missouri

Cotton Warehouse Association of America

Delta Council

Dignity Apparel

Florida Cotton Growers Association

Florida Farm Bureau Federation

Gap Inc.

Georgia Agribusiness Council

Georgia Cotton Commission

Georgia Farm Bureau

Gildan Activewear Inc.

Hamrick Mills

Imogene and Willie

Kansas Cotton Association

Kontoor Brands

Levi Strauss & Co.

Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation

Lummus Corporation

Maricopa County Farm Bureau

Milliken & Company

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation

Missouri Farm Bureau

National Cotton Council

National Cotton Ginners Association

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau

North Carolina Cotton Producers Association

North Carolina Farm Bureau

Oklahoma Cotton Council

Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Outdoor Industry Association

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

Port of Corpus Christi

Ralph Lauren Corporation

Red Land Cotton

Rolling Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

South Carolina Farm Bureau

South Dakota Farm Bureau

South Texas Cotton & Grain Association

Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association, Inc.

Southern Cotton Ginners Association

Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.

Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association

Target

Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation

Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

Texas Cotton Ginners' Association

Texas Cotton Growers Cooperative Association

Texas Farm Bureau

Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative

TS Designs

U.S. Fashion Industry Association

Under Armour

United Agricultural Cooperative, Inc.

United Dairymen of Arizona

VF Corporation

Victoria's Secret & Co.

Virginia Cotton Growers Association

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

Zkano Socks

CC:

The Honorable Jason Smith, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Richard Neal, Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Mike Crapo, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee