



July 3, 2012

H.E. Minster Vu Huy Hoang
Ministry of Industry and Trade
Hanoi, Vietnam

Ambassador Ron Kirk
U.S. Trade Representative
Washington, DC

Dear Minister Hoang and Ambassador Kirk:

On behalf of the U.S and Vietnamese apparel producers, brands, and retailers, we are writing to express our strong support for conclusion of a 21st century Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement that will generate trade and investment between our countries.

To achieve this goal, the TPP must include updated and commercially meaningful rules for the apparel industry that recognize the importance of global value chains to the competitiveness of the U.S. and Vietnamese apparel industries.

Key features of such a TPP should include:

- Simple and flexible rules of origin for apparel, focusing on either assembly or regional value content requirements;
- Immediate and reciprocal duty free access for apparel; and
- Customs procedures that facilitate trade and reflect smart enforcement based on risk.

We believe that restrictive rules of origin, such as the yarn forward rule of origin, should be used only in very limited circumstances and only for sensitive

products where there is domestic production data establishing that such rules are necessary and appropriate.

We look forward to working with you and the TPP negotiators to develop a TPP agreement that supports the fashion industry global value chain for global apparel brands, manufacturers, retailers and consumers.

Sincerely,



Le Tien Truong
First Vice Chairman,
Vietnam Textile and
Apparel Association (VITAS)



Julia K. Hughes,
President,
United States Association of
Importers of Textiles & Apparel
(USA-ITA)



Kevin M. Burke,
President,
American Apparel &
Footwear Association (AAFA)



Frank Hugelmeyer,
President & CEO,
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)



Sandra L. Kennedy,
President,
Retail Industry Leaders Association
(RILA)



Matt Shay,
President & CEO,
National Retail Federation (NRF)