

POLICY POSITION

26. Textile and Apparel Imports

Background

In the last four years, foreign textile and apparel imports have come into the United States at an increased rate of 19 percent per year compounded. As a result of this increase, foreign imports have seized between 50 and 60 percent of the entire American apparel market and 230,000 textile and apparel workers have been put out of work since 1981.

If foreign imports continue to increase at current rates, it is estimated that one million textile and apparel workers will lose their jobs by 1990. It is further projected that one million jobs in services supporting the textile and apparel industry would be lost during the same period.

Recommendations

The Southern Legislative Conference recommends that Congress enact the Textile and Apparel Trade Enforcement Act of 1985, S 680. The bill provides for enforcement of existing Multi-fiber Arrangement provisions, thereby assuring that growth in the U.S. textile and apparel market is fairly shared between domestic and foreign manufacturers.

Further, the Southern Legislative Conference urges Congress to take into account the increasing level of unemployment in the domestic textile industry by fairly applying the provisions of S.680 to existing U.S. Textile Manufacturers with plants outside the borders of the continental United States. Thereby ending the erosion of jobs by our own industries.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference on July 24, 1985.

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