

- **American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition**
 - **National Textile Association**
 - **UNITE HERE**
- **The Domestic Manufacturers Committee of The Hosiery Association**

Press Statement

For Immediate Release
May 19, 2005

U.S. Textile Sector Opposes CAFTA

Broad Coalition Calls Proposed CAFTA "A Job Killer Just Like NAFTA"

A broad nation-wide coalition of U.S. trade associations and organized labor representing the U.S. textile sector reaffirmed their strong opposition to the proposed Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), calling the proposed deal, "a job killer just like NAFTA."

The coalition noted that the U.S. textile and apparel sector has been devastated by the trade liberalizations of the NAFTA era.

Since December 1994, the U.S. textile and apparel manufacturing sector has lost 890,000 jobs, or 57.2 percent of the industry's employment. The coalition also noted that U.S. textile output fell 26 percent and apparel output fell 57 percent during the same time period. Finally, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the value of U.S. textile and apparel shipments plummeted from a high of \$158 billion in 1995 to \$114 billion in 2003.

Like NAFTA, CAFTA encourages U.S. companies to outsource production to low-wage countries. The proposed deal also includes numerous loopholes like tariff preference levels (TPLs), cumulation, single transformation and exceptions for pocketing and non-visible linings that would allow manufacturers from third party countries to displace U.S. textile and apparel component manufacturers.

This anti-CAFTA coalition includes the nation's two largest textile trade associations, largest textile and apparel labor union, and numerous other organizations:

- American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) - originally founded as the American Textile Trade Action Coalition, AMTAC's mission is to preserve and promote domestic manufacturing. AMTAC represents more than 150 U.S. companies in the textile and apparel sector.

- National Textile Association (NTA) - founded in 1854 and is the nation's oldest industrial trade association. NTA represents 135 textile and related companies and is the largest association of companies who form or finish fabric in the United States. NTA's members have fabric-making and finishing operations in 23 states.
- UNITE HERE represents more than 450,000 workers in the textile, apparel, laundry, hotel and food services sectors. Major contracts/employers include Liz Claiborne, Brooks Brothers, and Hartmarx.
- The Domestic Manufacturers Committee of The Hosiery Association (DMC-THA) represents the largest group of U.S. sock manufacturers within The Hosiery Association. Their member companies manufacture the majority of domestic sock production in the U.S.A.

This coalition urges Congress to defeat CAFTA and prevent its loopholes from destroying a substantial portion of the U.S. textile industry's exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic.