



PUBLIC VERSION

December 28, 2015

William Jackson
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements
Room 30003
United States Department of Commerce
Washington DC 20230.

Also via email to
William_Jackson@ustr.eop.gov
and
Maria.D'Andrea@trade.gov

Subject: Request for Public Comment on a Commercial Availability Request under the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement Relating to Certain Printed and Piece-Dyed Warp Knit Fabrics of Polyester or Nylon Fibers

Dear Mr. Jackson,

I write on behalf of **DARLINGTON FABRICS**, a domestic U.S. manufacturer of warp knit fabrics, to oppose the request of November 16, 2015, from Swimsuit Commission Corporation ("SCC") to initiate consultations with the Government of Morocco under Article 4.3.3 of the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement. SCC requests that the United States and Morocco consider revising the rules of origin for certain women's and girls' swimwear to address availability, in the territories of the Parties, of certain printed and piece-dyed warp knit fabrics of polyester or nylon fibers classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States subheading 6004.10 containing between 3 percent and 41 percent elastomeric yarns, in which the elastomeric yarns were engineered for chlorine resistance.

Darlington Fabrics is a domestic U.S. manufacturer of warp knit fabrics the subject of this request. Darlington Fabrics currently produces _____ square meters of such fabric annually at our U.S. facilities in Westerly, Rhode Island. We have

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additional capacity to produce _____ square meters annually. At no time has Darlington Fabrics been approached with an attempt to source the subject fabric from the U.S. In fact, the entire request appears to be justified solely on the basis that such fabrics are on the Trans-Pacific Partnership ("TPP") short supply list. As you know, the TPP short supply list was the result of negotiated compromises, not the result of a short supply procedure, such as in some other agreements, which required a canvassing of the domestic U.S. industry for suppliers before an item could be added to the list. Had such a canvassing been done, Darlington Fabrics would have been identified as able and willing to supply the fabric.

Darlington Fabrics strongly objects to this request for the following reasons:

1. Darlington Fabrics is able and willing to supply the subject fabric, and
2. It is a misuse of the negotiated TPP to suggest, as this request does, that the mere appearance of an article on the TPP short supply list is compelling evidence for the article being short supply under the terms of another agreement.

Darlington Fabrics is filing this summary objection now to meet the January 6, 2016 deadline. As you can well imagine, this is not the optimal time of year to be responding to the serious threat to our business. It is our understanding, pursuant to an email, dated December 17, 2015, from Maria D'Andrea of the Office of Textiles and Apparel to our consultant, David Trumbull, of Agathon Associates, that should we wish to submit supplementary information you will accept it up to a week after this deadline. We appreciate your generosity in understanding our difficulties in filing over the Christmas to New Year's break.

If you have any questions about our opposition you may contact me at 401-315-6216 of joconnor@themooreco.com

Yours,



James F. O'Connor
Corporate Director of Purchasing
December 28, 2015