

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 21, 2020

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

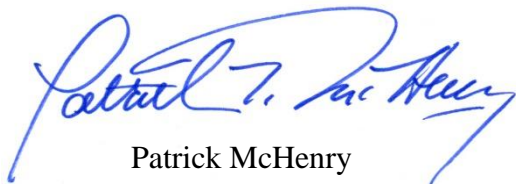
Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Thornberry:

As you begin negotiations with your Senate counterpart conferees, we urge you to support Section 814 (Modification to Small Purchase Threshold Exception to Sourcing Requirements for Certain Articles) of the Senate's Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Section 814 would lower the threshold over which the Department of Defense (DoD) must comply with the rules of the Berry Amendment (now codified at 10 U.S.C. §2533a) in order to secure domestic manufacturing of textiles which support our warfighters. Including this section in the final bill will help maintain a robust textile manufacturing base in the United States and decrease our dependency on foreign adversaries.

The Berry Amendment requires that the DoD purchase certain articles from domestic sources, including textiles, tents, and food. There are, however, a number of exceptions. Notably, the Berry Amendment does not apply if the contract is below the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT), which was previously set at \$150,000. When Congress passed the Fiscal Year 2018 NDAA, it raised the SAT to \$250,000, which heightened the risks of outsourcing manufacturing contracts to adversaries like China. This higher threshold undermines the intent of the Berry Amendment: to safeguard our national security interests and support thousands of American jobs in the process.

Section 814 would return the threshold for Berry-compliant purchases to \$150,000, ensuring that the DoD procures textiles and other items covered under the Berry Amendment from American manufacturers and workers. In addition, the provision directs the Secretary of Defense to adjust as necessary the threshold for inflation. By supporting this provision, the Committee would be taking a responsible step in securing our supply of critical textiles from the threat of strategic supply disruptions from our foreign adversaries.

Sincerely,



Patrick McHenry



Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Brian Fitzpatrick

Ralph Norman

Rick Crawford

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Jody Hice

Chellie Pingree

William R. Timmons IV

David Rouzer

Jan Schakowsky

Marcy Kaptur

Dusty Johnson

James McGovern

Lance Gooden

W. Gregory Steube

Jarden Golden

David N. Cicilline

Judy Chu

Lori Trahan

Steve Stivers

Matt Gaetz



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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.



Mo Brooks



Ted Budd



Dan Meuser



Daniel W. Lipinski



Dan Bishop



Peter A. DeFazio



Josh Gottheimer



Madeleine Dean