



WARRIOR PROTECTION & READINESS COALITION



ALLIANCE FOR american manufacturing



SOUTH CAROLINA



AMERICAN FIBER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

RPFMA

Rubber and Plastic Footwear Manufacturers Association



July 11, 2017

The Honorable Pete Sessions
Chairman
Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Louise Slaughter
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member Slaughter,

We are writing to advise you of our very strong opposition to Sanford Amendment #325 to H.R. 2180, the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act which strikes subsection (d) of Section 418 of title 37, United States Code. You will recall that just last year, the House clarified that athletic shoes provided to enlisted recruits in basic training were covered by the Berry Amendment.

As continued and staunch supporters of the Berry Amendment and domestic manufacturing, our organizations firmly believe that athletic footwear always has been, and continues to be, an item that falls fully within the Berry Amendment procurement requirements.

We long disagreed with the former policy that allowed athletic footwear to be provided to U.S. troops that were not compliant with the Berry Amendment. Singling out certain types

of footwear for procurement outside the Berry Amendment creates a damaging precedent that undermines these important protections altogether.

Subsection (d) of Section 418 of title 37 was enacted into law as part of the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act to close this loophole and support U.S. footwear manufacturing jobs while providing U.S. troops with Berry Amendment compliant athletic footwear. Amendment #325 is an amendment based on a false premise and we urge that it be ruled out of order.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM)

American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)

American Fibers Manufacturers Association (AFMA)

American Sheep Industry Association (ASI)

Georgia Association of Manufacturers

Narrow Fabrics Institute (NFI)

National Cotton Council (NCC)

National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)

Rubber and Plastic Footwear Manufacturers Association (RPFMA)

South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance

SEAMS, the National Association for the Sewn Products Industry

Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association (TMTA)

U.S. Industrial Fabrics Institute (USIFI)

United Steel Workers (USW)

Warrior Protection & Readiness Coalition (WPRC)