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March 28, 2025

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Cotton Council (NCC), I am writing to request that you maintain duty-free trade on USMCA qualified textile and apparel products. The NCC is the central organization of the United States cotton industry. Members include cotton farmers, ginner, cottonseed processors and merchandizers, merchants, cooperatives, warehousemen, and textile manufacturers. U.S. cotton farmers cultivate between 10 and 14 million acres of cotton with production averaging 12 to 20 million 480-lb bales annually. The approximate 14,000 cotton family farms produce the critical raw material that supports a domestic textile industry which employs over 471,000 people.

All segments of the U.S. cotton industry from farmers to textile manufacturers are strongly aligned in support of the vital necessity of preserving the duty-free trade in cotton and textiles that is crucial to the economic viability of the U.S. cotton and textile industry. If tariffs are assessed on USMCA qualified goods, our critical industry will be under severe threat and significant harm. Even if *de minimis* is closed, which we strongly support, it will not offset the losses experienced by this critical industry if qualified goods are not protected.

We very much appreciate your pause on these penalty tariffs until April 2nd and sincerely hope you maintain that position going forward. We also support penalizing non-qualified goods that utilize non-U.S. cotton and components. Such a move would shore up demand for U.S. cotton, which is critical given the current financial challenges facing cotton farmers.

The U.S. textile industry is vital part of the supply chain which exports 70% of yarns and fabrics manufactured in the United States to Mexico for final assembly. If this trade is penalized, it will reward foreign cotton and put our industry in severe harm.

Thank you for your strong support for U.S. cotton farmers and all segments of the cotton and textile industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Johnson".

Patrick Johnson
Chairman
National Cotton Council