



For Immediate Release
Monday, October 3, 2011

Contact: Scott Elmore
(703) 797-9056 Office

selmore@apparelandfootwear.org

AAFA Welcomes Action on Pending Trade Agreements

Arlington, VA – American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) President and CEO Kevin M. Burke today applauded the transmission of implementing legislation from the White House to the Congress for the three long-pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea.

“For far too long, the U.S. apparel and footwear industry and our more than four million U.S. workers have been threatened by growing international competition because of inaction on the pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. In fact, this is the first major step forward for U.S. trade policy since 2009 when the U.S. – Peru Free Trade Agreement entered into force.

“Today’s action by the President reaffirms our position as a global leader. Opening these three markets to permanent two-way trade will provide the U.S. apparel and footwear industry with increased opportunities to create more jobs here at home.

“I urge the U.S. Congress to act as quickly as possible to pass these job-creating agreements and help drive our industry’s competitiveness in the global market.”

###

The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn products companies, and their suppliers, which compete in the global market. AAFA's mission is to promote and enhance its members' competitiveness, productivity and profitability in the global market by minimizing regulatory, commercial, political, and trade restraints.