

**KEY VOTE “YES” ON  
THE ACT TO RENEW THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) (H.R. 4979)**

**February 12, 2018**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the members of the American Apparel & Footwear Association, and the four million trade-dependent U.S. workers the industry employs, I am writing to express strong support for the act to renew the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

AAFA has key voted passage of the GSP Renewal Act (H.R. 4979) as a **YES** vote.

Consumers, workers, and companies in every state and every Congressional district use and benefit from the GSP. It expired last December. This bill will renew it for three years.

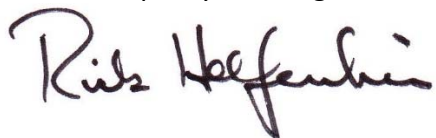
For more than 40 years, the GSP trade program has provided for duty free importation of non-sensitive items from developing countries. In doing so, the United States, like other industrialized nations that have similar programs, accomplishes several goals simultaneously.

- U.S. companies and consumers can lower costs on imported articles and inputs that are not made in the United States.
  - For example, the recent addition of travel goods – such as purses or children’s backpacks – meant tax savings of more than **\$55 million in 2017 alone**.
  - Nationwide, companies saved more than **\$865 million in tax savings last year**.
- The GSP serves as an important tool to help ensure other countries meet key Congressional mandates regarding **market opening, labor rights, and the protection of intellectual property**.

**Please cast a vote in favor of U.S. manufacturers, U.S. job creators, U.S. workers, and U.S. consumers.**

**I urge you to vote YES on H.R. 4979.**

Please accept my best regards,



Rick Helfenbein  
President and CEO