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OF AMERICA

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THE ASSOCIATION & VOICE OF THE US SEWN PRODU

UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW
UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS



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April 20, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representative
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your comprehensive approach to the Senate-passed U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) and House-passed America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing Pre-Eminence in Technology and Economic Strength (America COMPETES) Act, a significant step forward toward providing American manufacturers and employers with the necessary resources to compete in the evolving global marketplace. Over the past two years, it has become abundantly clear that U.S. manufacturers and their domestic supply chains have been negatively impacted by years of offshoring to foreign nations, including our near-peer adversaries. There are myriad examples from the past year that demonstrate the negative impacts of these actions, especially as frontline personnel and first responders sought lifesaving personal protective equipment (PPE) items that were not immediately available due to our overreliance on foreign sources.

Division F, Section 50101 in the House-passed America COMPETES Act, ensures that key components of the Department of Homeland Security can procure critical uniforms and protective equipment developed and manufactured in the United States to execute their security, enforcement, and investigative missions. This bipartisan, bicameral initiative was originally introduced by Senators Shaheen, Moran, Hassan, and Rounds as S.1009, the Homeland Procurement Reform (HOPR) Act. Companion legislation was also introduced as H.R.2915 by House Representatives Correa, Mast, McGovern, Pappas, and Thompson.

Since its introduction, support for the HOPR Act has grown in both the House and the Senate, and on November 16, 2021, the House of Representatives passed this legislation via voice vote. Similarly, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs

unanimously reported S.1009 on September 14, 2021, indicating the Committee's strong support for the legislation. As this bill is confereed with the Senate version, we strongly encourage the HOPR language be included in the final legislation.

We have consistently encouraged Congress to identify opportunities to empower federal agency procurement officers to invest in American supply chains and provide high quality, innovative PPE and equipage produced in the United States. The HOPR Act establishes specific criteria that the Department of Homeland Security must meet when procuring certain uniform and PPE items.

As the House and Senate continue consideration of a final version of this legislation, we respectfully request your support for inclusion of this provision in its complete and original form. Our leaders and membership are available to provide relevant examples and support to ensure that the final product of this legislation is as impactful as possible.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

Alliance for American Manufacturing

American Apparel and Footwear Association

American Sheep Institute

Georgia Association of Manufacturers

National Cotton Council

National Council of Textile Organizations

Parachute Industry Association

SEAMS: Association of the U.S. Sewn Products Industry

Sewn Products Equipment and Suppliers of the Americas

United States Footwear Manufacturers Association

United Steelworkers

Warrior Protection and Readiness Coalition

Workers United