



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

KEVIN BRADY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SELECT REVENUE
SOCIAL SECURITY

**PRESERVE A COMPETITIVE APPAREL/TEXTILE INDUSTRY
IN THE UNITED STATES AND CENTRAL AMERICA
SUPPORT DR-CAFTA**

Dear Colleague:

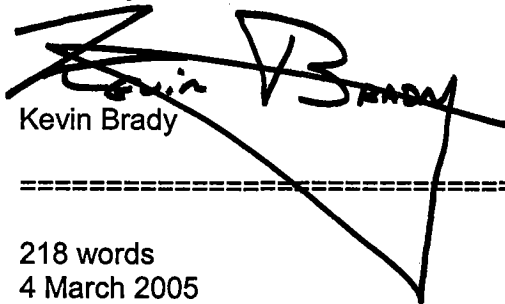
Please see below a recent wire service story reporting on the loss of more than 19,000 textile and apparel related jobs in the Dominican Republic. New competitive pressures are transferring many of these textile and apparel jobs to Asia.

This matters because the Dominican Republic has become a major customer of U.S. yarns and fabrics. In 2004, garment companies in the Dominican Republic imported \$662 million worth of yarns and fabrics, up from about \$230 million just four years earlier. As a result, most of the garments we import from the Dominican Republic are made primarily with U.S. textile components. Garments imported from Asia contain less than 1 percent U.S. content.

But we can't expect them to buy our yarns and fabrics, if the Dominican Republic loses its garment industry. The DR-CAFTA will provide fresh incentives to keep sewing anchored in this hemisphere, which is critically important for the survival of the U.S. textile industry.

Support DR-CAFTA to help ensure a seamless U.S./Dominican textile and apparel partnership.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady

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Santo Domingo, Mar 4 (EFE).- The freeing-up of international trade in textiles, which included elimination of national quotas, has left some 19,000 Dominican textile workers jobless, authorities said here Friday.

Government economic advisor Julio Ortega said that workers in the northern provinces of Santiago and Moca, La Romana in the east and San Cristobal in the south were most affected by the layoffs.

"The most recent figure we have on people laid off in the free-trade zones is about 19,000, from November (2004) to date," Ortega told the newspaper Listin Diario.

He added that some firms that have dismissed workers claim that the recovery of the Dominican peso against the U.S. dollar also has caused problems for the textile sector by making the country's products more expensive abroad.

The elimination of the quota system for the international textile trade has put countries like the Dominican Republic at a disadvantage against larger and lower-cost producers such as China and India.

Santo Domingo has turned to the International Monetary Fund's Trade Integration Mechanism to ease the negative effects of the world textile quota cancellation and the country could receive some \$33.3 million in additional loans to help out the sector.