



Joint Statement on Policy Objectives for Reshoring and Safeguarding Domestic PPE Manufacturing

As trade associations and other organizations representing every segment of the textile, apparel, and personal protective equipment (PPE) supply chain in the U.S., servicing both the Department of Defense and consumer retail, we are united in our support of important principles that must be adopted in order to address our current public health needs and guarantee our nation is better prepared to respond to future emergencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses a severe threat to our nation, and our association and organization members have moved swiftly to convert manufacturing facilities and build supply chains to produce desperately needed PPE. In many cases, these supply chains were created virtually overnight and at great expense, highlighting the ingenuity, commitment, and passion of U.S. manufacturers and workers in responding to this generational crisis.

However, the coronavirus has exposed severe gaps in our national readiness to respond to a public health emergency of this magnitude. We agree with the strong bipartisan consensus building in Washington and across the country that the United States must have domestic capacity to produce PPE and other vital medical supplies without relying on imports from other countries. In fact, our

continuing reliance on foreign sources for these vital public health resources is a severe vulnerability to both our public health and national security.

Therefore, creating and maintaining domestic supply chains capable of producing PPE and key medical supplies in sufficient quantities to meet a national health emergency is of paramount concern for every citizen of this country.

We stand united in supporting several principles as necessary elements of our national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, principles that will both meet current needs and ensure a reliable domestic PPE manufacturing base capable of meeting our public health needs during a future crisis. We call on Congress and the Trump administration to adopt and implement the following principles through legislation, Executive Order, or other appropriate means:

Create strong domestic procurement rules for federal PPE purchases substantially similar to the Berry Amendment and the Kissell Amendment

Taxpayer dollars should not go to China and other offshore PPE producers, only to have those same producers withhold access to vital supplies and equipment in the face of global shortages. New federal government domestic purchasing requirements for PPE will create the stable demand for U.S.-made PPE that will incentivize investment in domestic PPE manufacturing.

Implement forward-looking policies to shore up the Strategic National Stockpile and to identify, incentivize, and maintain a robust domestic supply chain for PPE and medical supplies

Our Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) must be better prepared to answer our needs efficiently and adequately during a pandemic or other public health emergency. This will require additional advance planning by the executive branch and proper oversight by Congress. The SNS must also conduct critical domestic supply chain mapping to identify gaps in the supply chain and develop recommendations to meet existing and future supply chain needs.

Create federal incentives for private sector purchases of domestically produced PPE

Expanding the domestic customer base for PPE beyond the federal government and to the private sector will provide long term stability to U.S. PPE producers and enhance our national manufacturing capacity.

Provide funding assistance for companies to reconstitute domestic PPE supply chains

The federal government should provide grants to companies that took the initiative to repurpose their factories and purchase equipment in order to rapidly increase domestic production of critical PPE items amid the COVID-19 crisis. Further support mechanisms such as additional grants and/or special tax credits for companies that make future investments in domestic PPE production should also be provided.

Strengthen the Berry Amendment

Domestic procurement requirements under the Berry Amendment have been gradually eroded in recent years. Congress must permanently re-set the Berry threshold to \$150,000 and eliminate loopholes for foreign-made products.

We stand ready and willing to assist Congress and the administration in developing these policies into legislative concepts and executive action.

AFL-CIO
Alliance for American Manufacturing
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Sheep Institute
Coalition for a Prosperous America
Georgia Association of Manufacturers
Hand Tools Institute
INDA: Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Narrow Fabrics Institute
National Cotton Council
National Council of Textile Organizations
Parachute Industry Association
Rhode Island Textile Innovation Network
SEAMS: Association of the U.S. Sewn Products Industry
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
South Carolina Textile Council
U.S. Industrial Fabrics Institute
United States Footwear Manufacturers Association
United Steelworkers
Warrior Protection and Readiness Coalition
Workers United/SEIU