

October 27, 2011

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

On behalf of the Brazil Trade Action Coalition (BRAZTAC), which is comprised of a broad range of U.S. agricultural, manufacturing, and services businesses and trade associations, we are writing to express our opposition to the Brazil WTO cotton amendment offered by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) to the FY 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

If passed, this amendment would effectively dismantle the 2010 U.S.-Brazil temporary agreement and could result in nearly \$1 billion in Brazilian trade sanctions against U.S. goods and intellectual property rights in connection to the World Trade Organization (WTO) cotton dispute.

The Coalition strongly opposes any amendment that would violate the temporary settlement of Brazil's WTO case and put the U.S. at risk of sanctions. These sanctions could result in the loss of tens of thousands of American jobs and establish a dangerous precedent for future actions in the WTO. We urge the appropriate committee of jurisdiction, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, to address a permanent solution to this issue as part of the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization.

Therefore, the Coalition urges the Senate to support American exports, jobs, and innovation by rejecting the McCain Amendment on Brazil cotton.

Sincerely,
The Brazil Trade Action Coalition

Brazil Trade Action Coalition members:
Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)
American Chamber of Commerce – Brazil (AmCham)
Brazil-U.S. Business Council (BUSBC)
Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO)
International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA)
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)
Personal Care Products Council (PCPC)
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce