

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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April 25, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

As the Senate Committee on Appropriations prepares to consider the FY 2013 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Bill, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million business and organizations of every size, sector, and region, urges you to preserve the 2010 U.S.-Brazil temporary cotton agreement, which helped U.S. businesses, farmers, and workers avoid Brazilian trade retaliation over the past two years.

The Chamber strongly opposes any provision or amendment that would violate the temporary settlement of the U.S.-Brazil World Trade Organization (WTO) cotton case and put the U.S. at risk of retaliation. Dismantling the 2010 U.S.-Brazil temporary agreement could result in nearly \$1 billion in Brazilian trade sanctions against U.S. goods and intellectual property rights. These sanctions could also result in the loss of thousands of American jobs and establish a dangerous precedent for future actions in the WTO.

Therefore, the U.S. Chamber urges the Committee to support American exports, jobs, and innovation by preserving the 2010 U.S.-Brazil temporary cotton agreement.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

Cc: The Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations