

House Resolution 142

By: Representatives Smith of the 131st, Smith of the 129th, Buckner of the 130th, Reece of the 11th, Crawford of the 127th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Requesting that the Committee on the Implementation of Textile Agreements approve the
2 safeguard petitions filed by the United States textile industry; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, quotas on imported textile products expired on January 1, 2005; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has 92,000 citizens employed in the textile industry,
5 making it Georgia's largest manufacturing employer; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China is a signatory to the rules set by the World
7 Trade Organization governing fair trade between sovereign nations and that that set of rules
8 allows for the implementation of textile-specific safeguards against imports from China on
9 the basis of market disruption or threat thereof; and
- 10 WHEREAS, exporters of textile products from the People's Republic of China have
11 benefited from practices specifically prohibited by the World Trade Organization, including
12 government subsidies, intellectual property piracy, tax rebates and currency manipulation;
13 and
- 14 WHEREAS, these illegal and unfair practices have enabled Chinese producers to undercut
15 world manufacturers with artificially low prices; and
- 16 WHEREAS, the American textile industry is the most innovative, efficient and productive
17 in the world, well able to compete within the sphere of legitimate, lawful global trade; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the American textile industry is crucial to the defense of the nation, providing
19 over 8,000 separate items to the Armed Forces of the United States, the ability to do so being
20 immediately threatened by predatory Chinese trade practices; and

1 WHEREAS, the textile product categories for which quotas have already been lifted have
2 been severely disrupted, with China's share of the U.S. import market for those nonquota
3 products growing from less than 2 percent to more than 70 percent since the beginning of
4 2002; and

5 WHEREAS, independent studies and polling from the United States importing and retailing
6 community shows that China could capture from 50 to 90 percent total U.S. market share in
7 textiles and apparel in short order unless the U.S. government imposes safeguards.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
9 GEORGIA that the members of this body strongly urge and request the Committee on the
10 Implementation of Textile Agreements to enact the safeguard provisions on textile and
11 apparel categories on the basis of threat of market disruption as petitioned by the American
12 textile industry.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
14 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Committee on the
15 Implementation of Textile Agreements and to the Georgia Congressional delegation.