

INDUSTRY ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Annual Industry Advocacy Day

Annually bringing U.S. Industrial Fabrics Institute (USIFI) and Narrow Fabrics Institute (NFI) members into Washington to directly engage in the policy arena is a staple of our advocacy efforts.



USIFI Members with Sen Tim Scott (SC), June 2019

Each year, IFAI and its consulting team arrange a full day and a half of meetings for member companies with key Executive Branch officials, Senators, House members and their staffs. Advocacy Day allows USIFI and NFI members to gain firsthand insight from government officials regarding the status of critical policy matters. Agency officials and elected representatives also gain a direct perspective from industry leaders on these important issues.

Key Issues

USIFI and NFI's advocacy program works to consistently shape policy decisions in Washington to the benefit of the U.S. technical and narrow fabric sectors. Listed below are examples of issues that are particularly impactful from a USIFI/NFI perspective.

International Trade Agreements

USIFI and NFI have fought diligently to ensure that the rules of trade agreements are logical and fair to prevent benefits under these agreements from being siphoned by competitors in countries like China. This engagement has taken place during every major U.S. trade negotiation since the early 2000's, including the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement-USMCA (Replacement for NAFTA).

U.S. Preference Programs

The United States grants duty concessions to selected countries under unilateral preference programs. USIFI and NFI work to defeat ill-conceived unilateral preference programs and to ensure that those programs in place contain reasonable protections for domestic technical textile and narrow fabric manufacturers.

Foreign Trade Zones

Importers often attempt to use a system known as Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ) to import materials duty-free. Technical and industrial fibers, yarns and fabrics are a favorite target of importers under the FTZ process. Recent cases where our input has helped to block harmful FTZ petitions involve polyester and nylon fabrics for personal flotation devices and RFL-dipped fabrics for industrial calendared rubber products.

Buy American

The Department of Defense procures over 8,000 different textile-based items resulting in approximately \$2 billion in annual purchases. Through the Berry Amendment, all textile products purchased by the military require 100% U.S. content. We have made a top priority of preserving and expanding the Berry Amendment. Successes include the defeat of measures to exempt commercial off-the-shelf products from Berry and the adoption of a similar buy-American law, known as the Kissell Amendment that applies to certain Department of Homeland Security purchases. The Berry and Kissell amendments ensure that critical U.S. military and security materials are sourced from reliable domestic suppliers.

BEGINNINGS

USIFI and NFI, both divisions of the Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI), have been actively engaged in federal policy matters for nearly two decades. Advocacy efforts began with strategic partnerships with other domestic textile trade associations and were solidified through a formal representation arrangement in 2003 with the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC).

Today, consulting arrangements with Whitehaven Associates (Sara Beatty) and SRG & Associates (Auggie Tantillo) refine our engagement on priority matters.



Sara Beatty



Auggie Tantillo

Questions?

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