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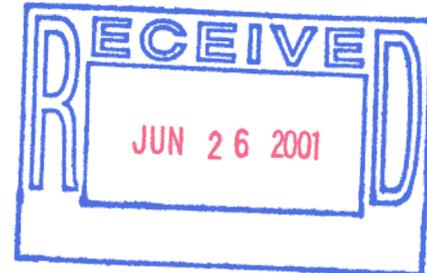
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June 18, 2001

Whitney Rick, Chief  
Research and Promotion Staff  
Cotton Program, Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0224,  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW,  
Room 2641-S South Building  
Washington, DC 20250-0224



Ref: 66 FR 16440-16441 (March 26, 2001)  
Docket Number: CN-01-002

Dear Ms. Rick

On behalf of Kellwood Company I am writing to express strong support for a referendum to determine whether there remains sufficient support to continue the Amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Order. As you are aware, the cotton fee administered under this order is used to fund advertising for cotton products. Although this superficially appears to be to our advantage, in reality it adds unnecessary costs to retail goods, which hampers our competitiveness and delivers no benefit to the American consumer.

Kellwood is a major manufacturer and importer of garments, including cotton wearing apparel. We use both domestic and imported cotton fabrics. We have design, marketing, manufacturing and distribution facilities in over 16 states and globally employ over 25,000 people.

Each year, because of our imports of cotton garments and materials, we are required to pay many thousands of dollars into the cotton promotion program. This fee represents a significant burden on our company at a time when we are forced to squeeze additional costs out of our operations. Since it is imposed on both domestic and foreign cotton, it encourages our use of lower-cost foreign cotton products – or to do the exact opposite of the program’s intent and opt to use fibers other than cotton.

In fact, because our company also produces and imports many garments using non-cotton fabrics, we ultimately are funding a program that promotes the purchase of cotton apparel at the expense of apparel made from non-cotton fibers. As a result, we are forced to pay a fee that works at cross-purposes with the operational and marketing strategy of our company.

We believe the fundamental unfairness and burden of this program justifies the limited expense that will be incurred in the conduct of this referendum especially because we believe this referendum will show support for rescinding these amendments.

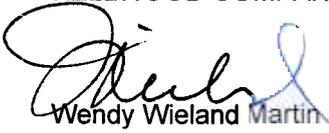
American Recreation Products, Inc.	Group B - Democracy	Koret
Biflex International, Inc.	Halmode Apparel, Inc.	Northern Isles
Crowntuft	Ivy	Robert Scott/David Brooks
Dorby Frocks	Kellwood Intimate Apparel	Sag Harbor
David Dart Design Group	Kellwood Menswear	Smart Shirts Ltd.
E • N • C	Kellwood Sleepwear	Vintage Blue
Fritzi	Kellwood Sportswear	

We appreciate your sincere consideration of the various aspects of this issue and will be pleased to be available to you should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

KELLWOOD COMPANY



Wendy Wieland Martin