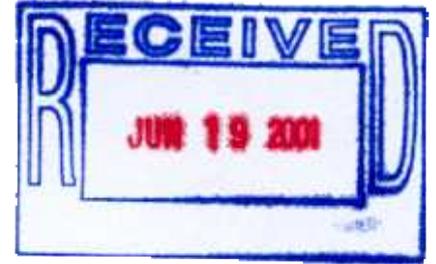




AMERICAN TEXTILE
MANUFACTURERS INSTITUTE



June 18, 2001

Ms. Whitney Rick, Chief
Research and Promotion Staff
Cotton Program, Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA, Stop 0224
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Room 2641 – S South Building
Washington, DC 20250-0244

Re: **Docket # CN-01-002, March
26, 2001, Pages 16440-16441,
Federal Register, Volume 66**

Dear Ms. Rick

The Agriculture Marketing Service has announced its intention to ascertain whether cotton producers and importers of raw cotton and cotton products favor continuation of the Cotton Research and Promotion Order that provides the authority for the operation of the Cotton Research and Promotion Program.

Thank you for providing the American Textile Manufacturers Institute (ATMI) with the opportunity to comment concerning whether a referendum is warranted. ATMI is the national trade association of the U.S. textile industry. Nearly all ATMI member companies purchase and consume raw cotton, mostly cotton domestically grown, but also many import cotton, on occasion, from other countries of the world. ATMI is an USDA-certified importer organization and an active participant in Cotton Incorporated activities, through representation on the Cotton Board, specifically its Importer Support Group.

ATMI supports continuation of the Research and Promotion Program. We believe the program is meeting its objective of strengthening the competitiveness of and expanding markets for cotton. Its promotional campaigns and research into the areas of U.S. and international marketing, cotton production and processing and textile research and implementation are satisfying this objective.

ATMI recommends that no referendum be conducted at this time based on the strong performance, in our view, of the current Program.



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Thank you, again, for this opportunity to submit our views on satisfaction with the Cotton Research and Promotion Amendments Act of 1990.

Sincerely,


Carlos Moore
Executive Vice President