

SAXBY CHAMBLISS
GEORGIA

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COMMITTEE:
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RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1007

February 16, 2007

The Honorable Carlos Gutierrez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 5858
14th Street & Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

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OS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Secretary Gutierrez:

I am writing to express my support for the continued funding of the National Textile Center (NTC), which conducts critical research for the U.S. textile, fiber, and apparel industries. In Georgia, the textile, fiber, and apparel industry is our largest manufacturing employer, with an annual payroll of \$550 million. I hope this industry will continue to benefit from the infusion of new ideas and talent that is the basis of the programs of the NTC.

The NTC has been funded for the past 15 years solely through grants from the International Trade Administration and the department of Commerce. This funding has supported a wide variety of basic research projects and education efforts focused on the competitiveness of the U.S. fiber, textile, and apparel industries. The NTC strengthens the nation's research and education efforts by uniting diverse experts and resources from the leading U.S. textile universities in unique collaborative projects. The goal of NTC research is to transform the U.S. fiber, textile and apparel sector into a highly flexible supply chain, capable of responding to rapidly changing market demands through the introduction of new and innovative technologies and processes.

I believe the NTC is a vital component of the U.S. industry's ongoing effort to remain globally competitive. I ask that you continue to fund this program for the remainder of fiscal year 2007. Thank you for your consideration and for all of your support for the U.S. fiber, textile, and apparel industries. Please do not hesitate contact me if I may ever be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

Saxby Chambliss
Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate

SC:ck



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

March 8, 2007

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1007

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Thank you for your letter regarding continued funding for the National Textile Center (NTC). I appreciate your concerns, and I am pleased to address this important matter.

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has been encouraged by the current activities and programs of NTC, and believes that continued research efforts will help maintain a viable and competitive U.S. textile and apparel industry. Over the past 15 years, the DOC has continuously supported NTC programs. However, the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Pub. L. No. 110-05), signed by the President on February 15, 2007, prohibits DOC from giving legal effect to earmarks this year. Although the continuing resolution did not authorize direct funding for the NTC, we have met with the group and are working to identify potential alternative methods of funding.

The Bush Administration continues to place a high priority on ensuring a level playing field and creating a healthy, competitive economic environment for the American textile and apparel industry. We are committed to opening foreign markets to U.S. textile and apparel products, making reciprocal market access a priority in trade agreements, and assuring that our trading partners play by the rules. DOC also conducts a special program to promote exports of American textile and apparel products, which is planned and implemented in close collaboration with the domestic industry.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Nat Wienecke, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos M. Guierrez".

Carlos M. Guierrez