



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**The Secretary of Commerce**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

October 8, 2015

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

Thank you for your September 10, 2015, letter requesting that the Department of Commerce conduct a comprehensive survey and assessment on the health, competitiveness, and contribution of the U.S. textile, apparel, and footwear industry to the U.S. economy. As you are aware, the Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) conducted a similar study for Congress in 2003.

I agree that conducting a new survey and assessment at this time will provide the Department of Commerce and your subcommittee with a comprehensive set of statistics and findings on this important defense-related industry. An assessment would be useful for providing data to monitor trends, benchmark industry performance, and raise awareness of potential issues of concern.

With that in mind, I have asked BIS to initiate a new survey and assessment of the U.S. textile, apparel, and footwear industrial base. BIS is responsible for conducting industry-wide surveys and assessments for the Department under the authority of the Defense Production Act of 1950.

If you have further concerns or questions, please contact Jim Stowers, Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

I appreciate your confidence in BIS and look forward to working with you on this important effort.

Sincerely,



Penny Pritzker