

THE AMBASSADOR



EMBASSY OF VIETNAM
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Washington D.C., March 3, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye,

I am writing to draw your attention to a clause in the Joint Explanatory Statement in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act (HR 1105), which was passed by the US House of Representatives on February 24, 2009, mandating the Department of Commerce (DOC) to reinstall the Import Monitoring Program (IMP) apparel imports from Vietnam. As you may recall, the Bush Administration's IMP on Vietnam's apparels expired on January 20, 2009. During its two-year tenure, various reviews conducted by the DOC within the IMP framework have found no evidence of antidumping on our apparels. The National Association of Textile Organization (NCTO), a leading proponent of the IMP, also concurred with the DOC's review conclusions.

As you may be aware, new convergence of mutual interest has brought our relationship closer in recent years. We now look forward to working with the 111th US Congress and the new Administration to elevate our relationship to a new height and explore additional measures for cooperation in the face of the current economic crisis. Examples can be drawn from Vietnam's willingness to further open its market to US beef and participate in the negotiations for the Tran-Pacific Economic Partnership Agreement, behind which the US is the driving force. Furthermore, Vietnamese apparel industry is sparing no efforts in sourcing American cotton materials for their products and has made some headway into the deal.

It should also be noted that after its admission to the WTO, Vietnam has shown strong commitment to trade liberalization even at the time our economy has been confronted with formidable challenges. We, therefore, are of the views that the reinstatement of IMP on Vietnam apparels will harm not only our current friendship and relationship, but also the US Government's image as a leading advocate of trade liberalization and fair market access in countering the serious decline in global trade in the years to come. In addition to that, the IMP will unavoidably create uncertainties in our current bilateral normal trade, drain away your scare resources, and increase the unnecessary deductions from the hard-earned income of the ordinary American customers and the

poor Vietnamese apparel workers in this dire situation. The re-installment of IMP, will, therefore, be in the interests of neither the US nor Vietnam.

Therefore, I would be highly appreciative, if you would seriously consider our requests and amend the above mentioned clause so that Vietnam is excluded from such unfair treatment in our apparel trade with the US. The Embassy of Vietnam would provide further information and explanation as required by your office to this effect.

I thank you so much and look forward to your favorable response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials, positioned above a long, slightly curved horizontal line that serves as a signature separator.

Le Cong Phung