

August 26, 2024

The Honorable Josh Newman
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6520
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 707 (Newman): Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2024 – Change Position to Neutral

Dear Senator Newman:

The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) has changed its position on SB 707 (Newman) from “opposed unless amended” to “neutral.” This change is an acknowledgement of the stakeholder process your office has engaged in over the past two years and follows recent substantive amendments to the legislation that demonstrate attempts to address several AAFA concerns.

AAFA and our members are keenly interested in policies that will help make progress towards the textile, apparel, and footwear industry’s sustainability and circularity goals. We believe well-designed extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes will play a crucial role in directing investment towards reuse, repair, and recycling infrastructure, and bolstering their respective markets, all while incentivizing the prioritization of product stewardship when designing and manufacturing new products.

As we have shared with your office, we have outstanding questions about some of the timelines included in this measure, the efficacy of the legislation’s enforcement provisions against third party sellers on online marketplaces, the legislation’s pathways for new and emerging recycling technologies to benefit and participate in this program, and potential conflicts between the goals of this legislation and other statutory and regulatory requirements in California.

However, it is not our wish to delay needed progress in search of perfection. We are appreciative of the efforts by you and your office thus far to consider industry feedback. In that spirit, we are removing our opposition to SB 707. We look forward to working further with you, the wider California legislature, and the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to ensure the success of this program.

Respectfully,



Stephen Lamar
President & CEO