

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1719

To eliminate duties on imports of recreational performance outerwear, to establish the Sustainable Textile and Apparel Research Fund, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2017

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To eliminate duties on imports of recreational performance outerwear, to establish the Sustainable Textile and Apparel Research Fund, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States Optimal
5 Use of Trade to Develop Outerwear and Outdoor Recre-
6 ation Act” or the “U.S. OUTDOOR Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF DUTIES ON RECREATIONAL PER-**
 2 **FORMANCE OUTERWEAR.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each subheading of the Har-
 4 monized Tariff Schedule of the United States specified in
 5 subsection (b) is amended—

6 (1) by striking the matter in the column one
 7 general rate of duty column and inserting “Free”;
 8 and

9 (2) by striking the matter in the column one
 10 special rate of duty column.

11 (b) SUBHEADINGS SPECIFIED.—The subheadings of
 12 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States
 13 specified in this subsection are the following:

6201.91.03	6203.41.03	6204.69.02
6201.91.05	6203.41.06	6204.69.03
6201.92.05	6203.41.08	6204.69.04
6201.92.17	6203.42.05	6204.69.05
6201.92.19	6203.42.07	6204.69.06
6201.93.15	6203.43.03	6210.40.15
6201.93.18	6203.43.05	6210.40.25
6201.93.45	6203.43.09	6210.40.28
6201.93.47	6203.43.11	6210.40.29
6201.93.49	6203.43.13	6210.50.03
6201.99.15	6203.49.01	6210.50.05
6202.91.03	6203.49.05	6210.50.12
6202.91.15	6203.49.09	6210.50.22
6202.92.03	6204.61.05	6211.32.50
6202.92.05	6204.61.15	6211.33.50
6202.92.12	6204.62.05	6211.39.03
6202.93.01	6204.62.15	6211.39.07
6202.93.03	6204.63.02	6211.39.15
6202.93.05	6204.63.03	6211.42.05
6202.93.07	6204.63.08	6211.43.05
6202.93.09	6204.63.09	6211.49.03
6202.99.15	6204.63.11	6211.49.15
6203.41.01	6204.69.01	6211.49.25.

14 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 15 this section shall take effect on the date that is 15 days
 16 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE AND APPAREL RESEARCH**
2 **FUND.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
4 Treasury of the United States the Sustainable Textile and
5 Apparel Research Fund (in this section referred to as the
6 “STAR Fund”).

7 (b) DEPOSITS.—There shall be deposited into the
8 STAR Fund amounts equal to the fees collected on rec-
9 reational performance outerwear under subsection (d).

10 (c) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The STAR Fund shall be
12 administered by a board of directors (in this section
13 referred to as the “Board”) composed of 5 individ-
14 uals familiar with the recreational performance out-
15 erwear textile and apparel industry, including the
16 production of raw materials and the finished prod-
17 ucts thereof, who shall be appointed by the Presi-
18 dent.

19 (2) MEMBERS.—

20 (A) FABRIC OR RAW MATERIAL PRODUC-
21 TION REPRESENTATIVES.—Not fewer than 2 of
22 the individuals appointed to the Board under
23 paragraph (1) shall be representatives of enti-
24 ties involved in the production of fabrics or raw
25 materials for use in recreational performance
26 outerwear in the United States.

(B) RECREATIONAL PERFORMANCE OUT-

ERWEAR PRODUCTION REPRESENTATIVES.—

Not fewer than 2 of the individuals appointed to the Board under paragraph (1) shall be representatives of entities involved in the production of recreational performance outerwear that pay the fees imposed on the importation of such outerwear under subsection (d).

(3) INELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The President

may not appoint individuals to the Board under paragraph (1) who are representatives of entities not involved in the production of recreational performance outerwear, such as customs brokers, converters, forwarders, or shippers.

(d) FUNDING.—

(1) FEE.—In addition to any other fee author-

ized by law, the Secretary of the Treasury shall charge and collect upon entry, or withdrawal from warehouse for consumption, a fee of 1.5 percent of the appraised value of imported garments (as determined under section 402 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1401a)) that are classifiable under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States as recreational performance outerwear (as defined in

1 Additional U.S. Note 3 to chapter 62 of such Sched-
2 ule).

3 (2) EXCLUSIONS.—The assessment of fees
4 under paragraph (1) shall not apply to imports of
5 recreational performance outerwear from the fol-
6 lowing:

7 (A) Any country that is party to a free
8 trade agreement with the United States that—

9 (i) is in effect on the day before the
10 date of the enactment of this Act; or

11 (ii) enters into force under the Bipar-
12 tisan Congressional Trade Priorities and
13 Accountability Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C.
14 4201 et seq.), or similar subsequent au-
15 thority.

16 (B) Any country designated as a CBTPA
17 beneficiary country under section 213(b)(5)(B)
18 of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act
19 (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)(5)(B)).

20 (C) Any country designated as a bene-
21 ficiary sub-Saharan African country under sec-
22 tion 506A(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19
23 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)), if the President has deter-
24 mined that the country has satisfied the re-
25 quirements of section 113(a) of the African

1 Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C.
2 3722(a)), and has published that determination
3 in the Federal Register.

4 (3) TERMINATION.—The fee under paragraph
5 (1) shall apply only to entries, or withdrawals from
6 warehouse for consumption, that are made during
7 the 10-year period beginning on the date of the en-
8 actment of this Act.

9 (e) DISTRIBUTION.—

10 (1) QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTIONS.—The Sec-
11 retary of Commerce, upon a majority vote of the
12 Board, taken annually, shall, not later than 60 days
13 after the end of each calendar quarter, distribute
14 amounts in the STAR Fund to one or more entities
15 that the Board considers appropriate to use the
16 funds in accordance with subsection (f).

17 (2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—An entity
18 may receive funds under paragraph (1) only if the
19 entity—

20 (A) is an organization described in section
21 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
22 that is exempt from tax under section 501(a) of
23 such Code;

24 (B) is an organization having at least 10
25 years of experience providing applied research,

technology development, and education to all parts of the textile and apparel supply chain, with a research capability demonstrated through past research programs involving supply chain management, product development, fit specifications, operations management, lean manufacturing, or digital supply chain technologies on behalf of the textile and sewn products industries in the United States; and

(C) is comprised of members representing the following segments of the supply chain:

(i) One or more of the following types of producers: fiber, yarn, or fabric producers in the United States.

(ii) Apparel producers in the United States.

(iii) Retail companies in the United States.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds distributed under subsection (e) may be used only to conduct applied research, development, and education activities to enhance the competitiveness of businesses in the United States in clean, eco-friendly apparel, other textile and apparel articles, and sewn-product design and manufacturing.

1 (g) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Commerce
2 may impose such requirements on the use of funds distrib-
3 uted under subsection (e) as the Secretary considers nec-
4 essary to ensure compliance with subsection (f), including
5 requiring reporting and assurances by the entities using
6 the funds.

7 (h) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Com-
8 merce shall submit to Congress a report, not later than
9 April 1 of each year, explaining in detail how amounts in
10 the STAR Fund were distributed under subsection (e) and
11 used under subsection (f) during the preceding calendar
12 year.

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