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OFC OF THE SECRETARY
US INTL TRADE COMM

Office of the Honorable Meredith Broadbent

Secretary

International Trade Commission

500 E Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20436

Dear Chairman Broadbent:

In light of the reauthorization of the Generalized System of Preferences ("GSP") on June 29, 2015 via the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee ("TPSC") plans to (1) accept certain petitions for waivers of competitive need limitations ("CNLs") based on full-year 2014 import data, and (2) consider possible designation of certain cotton products as eligible articles for GSP benefits for least-developed beneficiary developing countries. Modifications to the GSP program that may result are expected to be announced on or before September 30, 2015, and to become effective on or before October 1, 2015. For these reasons, I am making the requests set out below.

In February 2012, my predecessor notified the Commission in accordance with sections 503(a)(1)(A), 503(e), and 131(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, that the five cotton articles identified in Table A of the enclosed Annex were being considered for designation as eligible articles under the GSP program for least-developed beneficiary developing countries only. In its report issued in investigation No. 332-529 (May 2012), the Commission, in accordance with section 503(e) of the Trade Act of 1974, provided its advice as to the probable economic effect on U.S. industries producing like or directly competitive articles, on U.S. imports, and on U.S. consumers of the elimination of U.S. import duties on those articles for least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the GSP program.

Pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)), I request that the Commission provide data on U.S. production, imports, exports, and consumption for these five cotton articles for the period 2012-2014.

Further, under authority delegated by the President, pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, and in accordance with section 503(d)(1)(A) of the 1974 Act, I request that the Commission provide advice on whether any industry in the United States is likely to be adversely affected by a waiver of the CNLs specified in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act for the country and articles specified in Table B of the enclosed Annex. Pursuant to section 332(g) and in accordance with section 503(c)(2)(E) of the 1974 Act, I also request that the Commission provide its advice with respect to whether like or directly competitive products were being produced in the United States on January 1, 1995. I request that the Commission provide its advice as to the probable economic effect on total U.S. imports, as well as on consumers, of the requested waivers.

To the extent practicable, I request that the Commission provide the requested data separately and individually for each U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule subheading subject to this request.

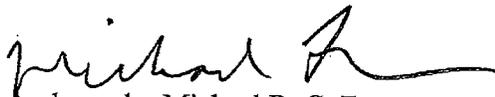
In accordance with USTR policy on implementing Executive Order 13526, as amended, I direct you to mark or identify as "confidential," for a period of ten years, such portions of the Commission's report and working papers that contain the Commission's advice and assessment of probable economic effects on domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles, on U.S. imports, and on U.S. consumers. Consistent with the Executive Order, this information is being classified on the basis that it concerns economic matters relating to the national security. In addition, USTR considers the Commission's report to be an inter-agency memorandum that will contain pre-decisional advice and be subject to the deliberative process privilege.

I request that you submit an outline of this report as soon as possible to enable USTR officials to provide you with further guidance on its classification, including the extent to which portions of the report will require classification and for how long. Based on this outline, an appropriate USTR official will provide you with written instructions. All confidential business information contained in the report should also be clearly identified.

I would greatly appreciate it if the Commission would provide its report no later than sixty (60) days from receipt of this letter, and earlier if possible. I appreciate that this is a shorter period than in past requests, but seek your assistance in meeting this exceptional request given the October 1, 2015 deadline for CNL-related actions set out in the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015. Once the Commission's confidential report is provided to my office, and we review and approve the classification marking, the Commission should issue, as soon as possible thereafter, a public version of the report containing only the unclassified information, with any confidential business information deleted.

The Commission's assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Ambassador Michael B. G. Froman

ANNEX

Products are listed by Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) subheadings. The product descriptions in this list are for informational purposes only; the definitive tariff nomenclature for the products listed below can be found in the HTS. The descriptions below are not intended to delimit in any way the scope of the relevant subheadings. The HTS may be viewed at <http://www.usitc.gov/tata/hts/bychapter/index.htm>

Table A: Products being considered for addition to the list of GSP-eligible products for least-developed beneficiary developing countries only

<u>HTS Subheading</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
5201.00.18	Cotton, not carded or combed, having a staple length under 28.575 mm (1-1/8 inches), n/harsh or rough, nesoi
5201.00.28	Cotton, not carded or combed, harsh or rough, staple length of 29.36875 mm or more but under 34.925 mm & white in color, nesoi
5201.00.38	Cotton, not carded or combed, staple length of 28.575 mm or more but under 34.925 mm, nesoi
5202.99.30	Cotton card strips made from cotton waste having staple length under 30.1625 mm & lap, sliver & roving waste, nesoi
5203.00.30	Cotton fibers, carded or combed, of cotton fiber processed, but not spun, nesoi

Table B: Products for which CNL waiver petitions are anticipated

<u>HTS Subheading</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>	<u>Anticipated Petitioner</u>
2008.19.15 (Thailand)	Coconuts, otherwise prepared or preserved, nesi	Government of Thailand
7408.29.10 (Thailand)	Copper alloys (o/than brass, cupro-nickel or nickel-silver), wire, coated or plated with metal	Government of Thailand