February 22, 2019

The Honorable David S. Johanson
Chairman
United States International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Johanson:

The United States and Korea have reached preliminary agreement on proposed modifications to the rules of origin for certain textile and apparel goods under the United States – Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) with respect to three products. These proposed modifications are reflected in the enclosure.

Chapter 4 and Annex 4-A of the KORUS set out rules of origin for textiles and apparel for applying the tariff provisions of the FTA. These rules are reflected in General Note 33 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

Section 202(o)(2)(B)(i) of the KORUS Implementation Act (the Act) authorizes the President, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 104 of the Act, to proclaim such modifications to the rules of origin for textiles and apparel goods as are necessary to implement an agreement with Korea pursuant to Article 4.2.5 of the KORUS. Section 104(1) of the Act requires that the President obtain advice regarding the proposed action from the U.S. International Trade Commission (the Commission) with respect to the probable economic effect of the modifications.

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the President, and pursuant to section 104 of the Act, I hereby request that the Commission provide advice on the probable economic effect of the modifications reflected in the enclosed proposal on U.S. trade under the KORUS, total U.S. trade, and on domestic producers of the affected articles. In addition, I would also request that the Commission provide this advice at the earliest possible date, but not later than four months from the date of delivery of this request, and that the Commission issue, as soon as possible thereafter, a public version of its report with any business confidential information redacted.
The Commission’s assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Robert E. Lighthizer

Enclosure
Enclosure

United States – Korea Free Trade Agreement

Proposed Revision to Annex 4-A, Rules of Origin for Textile or Apparel Goods

Chapter 52

5201 – 5205 A change to heading 52.01 through 52.05 from any other chapter, except from heading 54.01 through 54.02, subheading 5403.33 through 5403.39, 5403.42 through heading 54.05, or 55.01 through 55.07.

5206 A change to heading 52.06 from subheading 5504.10, viscose rayon staple fiber of heading 55.07, or any other chapter, except from heading 54.01 through 54.02, subheading 5403.33 through 5403.39, 5403.42 through heading 54.05, 55.01 through 55.03, subheading 5504.90 through heading 55.06, or any other good of heading 55.07.

5207 A change to heading 52.07 from any other chapter, except from heading 54.01 through 54.02, subheading 5403.33 through 5403.39, 5403.42 through heading 54.05, or 55.01 through 55.07.

Chapter 54

5408 A change to heading 54.08 from subheading 5403.10, 5403.31 through 5403.32, cuprammonium rayon yarn of subheading 5403.39, subheading 5403.41, or any other chapter, except from heading 51.06 through 51.10, 52.05 through 52.06, any other good of subheading 5403.39, or 55.09 through 55.10.

Chapter 61

6109 A change to heading 61.09 from any other chapter, except from heading 51.06 through 51.13, 52.04 through 52.12, 53.07 through 53.08, or 53.10 through 53.11, 54.01 through 54.02, subheading 5403.33 through 5403.39, 5403.42 through heading 54.08, or heading 55.08 through 55.16, or 60.01 through 60.06, provided that the good is both cut (or knit to shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in the territory of one or both of the Parties.

6110 A change to heading 61.10 from cashmere yarn of heading 51.08, or any other chapter, except from heading 51.06 through 51.07, any other good of heading 51.08, heading 51.09 through 51.13, 52.04 through 52.12, 53.07 through 53.08, or 53.10 through 53.11, 54.01 through 54.02, subheading 5403.33 through 5403.39, 5403.42 through heading 54.08, or heading 55.08 through 55.16, or 60.01 through 60.06, provided that the good is both cut (or knit to shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in the territory of one or both of the Parties.
A change to heading 61.11 from any other chapter, except from heading 51.06 through 51.13, 52.04 through 52.12, 53.07 through 53.08, or 53.10 through 53.11, 54.01 through 54.02, subheading 5403.33 through 5403.39, 5403.42 through heading 54.08, or heading 55.08 through 55.16, or 60.01 through 60.06, provided that the good is both cut (or knit to shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in the territory of one or both of the Parties

A change to heading 61.13 through 61.16 from any other chapter, except from heading 51.06 through 51.13, 52.04 through 52.12, 53.07 through 53.08, or 53.10 through 53.11, 54.01 through 54.02, subheading 5403.33 through 5403.39, 5403.42 through heading 54.08, or heading 55.08 through 55.16, or 60.01 through 60.06, provided that the good is both cut (or knit to shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in the territory of one or both of the Parties

A change to heading 61.17 from cashmere yarn of heading 51.08, or any other chapter, except from heading 51.06 through 51.07, any other good of heading 51.08, heading 51.09 through 51.13, 54.01 through 54.02, subheading 5403.33 through 5403.39, 5403.42 through heading 54.08, or heading 55.08 through 55.16, or 60.01 through 60.06, provided that the good is both cut (or knit to shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in the territory of one or both of the Parties