WHAT IS THE BATC?

» The BATC’s purpose is to protect and grow the Berry Amendment.

» The BATC is an informal coalition. It currently has four trade association members:
  • U.S. Industrial Fabrics Institute (USIFI)
  • Narrow Fabrics Institute (NFI)
  • American Fiber Manufacturers Association (AFMA)
  • National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)
    ◦ Individual companies from these trade associations also participate.

» Past USIFI Chair Ron Houle serves as the de facto chair of the BATC and Lloyd Wood is its de facto executive director.

» The BATC hosts regular conference calls to discuss policy agenda and legislative/executive branch action items.
VICTORY: KEPT BERRY AMENDMENT STRONG


- Would have raised threshold to trigger them from $150,000 to $500,000.
- $157 million in contracts would have been affected.
- If language had become law, nearly 1 dollar in 5 spent by DOD on textiles would have fallen outside Berry.

For FY 2016 bill, BATC mobilized to support amendment offered by Cong. Jim McGovern (D-MA) on House floor to carve out Berry.

- McGovern Amendment was adopted by House.
- BATC then successfully worked to have the increase to the $150k threshold removed in House-Senate conference.
VICTORY: KEPT BERRY AMENDMENT STRONG

» Initial House mark of the FY 2017 saw recurrence of threshold increase problem.

» For FY 2017 bill, BATC got HASC to adopt amendment offered by Cong. Walter Jones (R-NC) at markup to strike threshold increase.

  ▪ Learned of problem late PM on a Friday.
  ▪ Coordinated textile letter signed by 12 trade associations plus talking points to send to HASC by Tuesday.
  ▪ Mobilized additional support for Jones Amendment from steel/specialty metals and labor by Wednesday HASC markup.

VICTORY: KEPT BERRY AMENDMENT STRONG

Signatories to BATC Letter Urging HASC to Adopt Jones/Hunter/Tsongas Amendment to Preserve Berry by Striking Threshold Increase
VICTORY: BERRY COMPLIANCE AUDITS

» BATC-pushed law now requires DoD IG to audit DoD’s compliance with Berry periodically.

» Three audits so far:
  - Air Force – Report No. DODIG-2016-051
  - Navy – Report No. DODIG-2015-161

» Key takeaway from audits:
  - More DoD training needed.

RFT-MII
Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA)
VICTORY: RFT-MII AWARDED

» DOD awarded new Revolutionary Fibers and Textile Institute of Manufacturing Innovation (RFT-MII) on April 1.

» Purpose of MII is to bridge gaps between research and product commercialization.

» Designed to benefit the entire textile supply chain.

RFT-MII FAST FACTS

» RFT-MII is the 6th of the DoD-led institutes

» Awarded to the Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA), a non-profit led by MIT
  ▪ Chairman of Board: General Paul Kern
  ▪ Executive Director: Dr. Yoel Fink

» Chief Operating Officer: Eric Spackey

» Total contract award nearly $320M; $75M of which is Federal funding over 5 years

» Total of 89 companies, non-profits, universities, and 5 State and other organizations – spread across 28 states

» 16 companies make up the 4 tiers of membership

» Small to medium-sized manufacturers and academia make up the Fiber Innovation Network (FIN)
RFT-MII NETWORK

The AFFOA Ecosystem: 52 Companies, 32 Universities, 5 State and Other Organizations Spread Across 28 States

KEY MANUFACTURING FOCUS AREAS

Four broad manufacturing thrusts, spanning the entire lifecycle:

1. Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Textiles (CAD-IT)
   - Integrated fabric design automation
   - Physical and digital fiber and fabric archive
   - Multiphysics modeling
2. Fiber and Yarn Devices (FYD)
   - Multimaterial fiber-draw scaling (MRL4-7)
   - Multimaterial fibers via melt-spinning
   - 3D printing of preforms
   - Functional hybrid-yarn process development
3. Textile Systems and Assemblies (TSA)
   - Surface treatment of textiles
   - Yarn-to-textile 3D manufacturing
   - Fiber, yarn and fabric testing, standardization and in-line inspection
4. System Integration (SI)
   - Fiber-circuit interconnections and packaging
   - Fabric wireless communications
   - Fabric to cloud
   - Product testing and validation
EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS: DEFENSE

- Personnel Parachuting and Cargo Airdrop Systems
- Softwall/Rigidwall Shelters and Base Camp Systems
- Integrated Soldier Power and Data System
- Soldier Uniforms (Thermal management, Chemical/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear-CBRN protection, etc.)

EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS: COMMERCIAL

- First Responder Uniforms
- Mechanical Filtration
- Automotive Airbags
- Artificial Reefs/Beach Erosion Prevention
- Reinforcement Structures (Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls)
MORE INFORMATION ON RFT-MII

» How can you join the RFT-MII? Opportunities include:
  ▪ Membership (cash): 4 tiers of membership at various contribution levels
  ▪ Fiber Innovation Network (cost share): Prototype and pilot capabilities as part of the Collaborative Infrastructure
  ▪ Several Councils within Institute:
    o Stakeholders Council
    o Technical Advisory Council
    o Workforce Development Council
    o Economic Impact Council
    o All Members Council

» More information is available at http://www.affoa.org

OTHER ISSUES
OPPORTUNITY: NEW B.I.S. STUDY

» The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) has initiated a new study of “the health, competitiveness, and the contribution of the U.S. textile, apparel, and footwear industry to the U.S. economy.” Topics include:
  - Current issues and challenges, and what can be done to support the industry.
  - Effectiveness of the Berry Amendment and other Buy-American provisions.
» BIS already has reached out to IFAI; opportunity to paint positive picture of industry.
» Last study was in 2003: The U.S. Textile and Apparel Industries: An Industrial Base Assessment.

CHALLENGE: US-EU FTA (T-TIP)

» EURATEX still asking for preferential treatment on Berry in T-TIP talks.
  - Called for United States to make concessions on Berry at February 2016 T-TIP stakeholder presentation.
  - U.S. industry adamant about keeping Berry sacrosanct.
THE BERRY AMENDMENT – EURATEX

The Berry Amendment requires that the Department of Defense funds be used to buy items that are only wholly of US origin = 100% American-made products.

This includes clothing, fabrics, fibres and yarns from inter alia cotton, polyester, wool and silk. This covers not only uniforms but also tents & tarpaulins, other made-up textiles and any item of individual equipment manufactured from or containing such fibres, yarns, fabrics or materials.

The bodies concerned are the Army, the Navy, the Air force – 17 federal agencies

The opening of Government Procurement for Defense would open huge market opportunities for both industries
What is the rationale behind the Berry Amendment?
“Security and safety of armed forces”
- Does this apply to clothing items like underwear, uniforms, wool and silk products?
- Why would the advanced European textiles not meet the US requirements?

Sensitiveness of this issue
AAFA & NCTO have opposed to open DoD procurement with no other reason that the health & security issue

Some exceptions are already foreseen in the Berry Amendment:
- SAT (threshold)
- DNAD (non-availability)
- emergency acquisitions
- specific cases for fibres and yarns

EURATEX, as the voice of the European industry:
- believes that both sides should make steps on this issue in order to reach an ambitious deal
- calls for limitation of the Berry Amendment in TTIP
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