

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 7, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
The Honorable Denny Hastert
The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Bill Thomas
The Honorable Mike DeWine

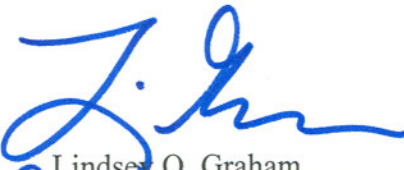
The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Charles Rangel

Dear Colleagues:

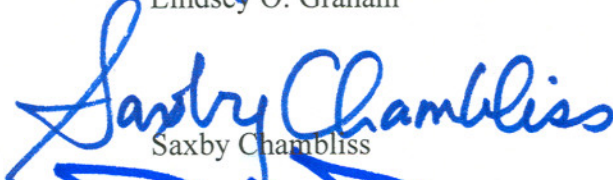
We have personally, and through staff, made several efforts to reach a compromise on the provisions relating to trade with Haiti in the tax, health, and trade legislative package. We hope you understand how concerned our textile constituents are about this section of the legislation. If you are not aware, over 100,000 textile jobs have been lost in the region due to trade agreements. The closing of textile plants affects many skilled workers of all races and philosophical dispositions. While we appreciate the need to assist Haiti, we must do so in a thoughtful way that provides new opportunities for the Haitian people rather than a pass through for Chinese yarn and fabric to enter the United States duty free; we must also do everything we can to protect our constituents' interests and ultimately their livelihood.

The Senate has never had a hearing or markup on the Haiti trade bill and it does not have the active support of the Administration. Unfortunately, given the consequences of proceeding in this manner we will have to oppose this provision as forcefully as possible. However, we remain hopeful that we can negotiate a settlement fair to all.

Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham



Saxby Chambliss



Richard Burr



Jeff Sessions



Elizabeth Dole



Johnny Isakson



Richard Shelby



Jim Bunning