



**Santo Domingo, D.N.  
May 07, 2024**

**Senator Chuck Schumer**  
Majority Leader of U.S. Senate  
United States Senate

**Senator Mitch McConnell**  
Minority Leader of U.S. Senate  
United States Senate

**Representative Mike Johnson**  
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
United States House of Representatives

**Representative Hakeem Jeffries**  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representative

Dear Senate and House of Representatives Leadership:

We are writing to request your valuable collaboration in urging your colleagues in the Senate Finance and House Ways & Means Committees, to swiftly reauthorize Haiti's HOPE-HELP trade preference programs, the cornerstone of a vibrant textile and apparel industry that plays a critical role in Haiti's economy as it is the country's largest employer responsible for 90% of its exports.

These congressionally approved programs support complementary production between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, creating an integrated supply chain that includes the usage of U.S. originating materials. This unique partnership represents the most successful example of near-shoring for textile and apparel operations in the Western Hemisphere

While there are valid concerns about the humanitarian crisis and political situation in Haiti, it is important to bear in mind that the preference programs provided by the U.S. Congress provide jobs and stability for thousands of Haitian families.

These programs, with exceptional trade rules intended to promote private-led investment in the Haitian apparel industry, are of key relevance for Haiti's economy. They are a vital engine for job creation, and in so doing mitigate the pressure to emigrate amid the current situation embroiling Haiti. An early extension of the HOPE-HELP Act, which is due to expire in September 2025, will provide predictability and stability to potential investors as well as companies already operating in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, creating jobs and economic prosperity for both countries.

Historically, the Haitian people have faced many serious challenges, including the trade embargo that devastated Haiti's economy in the '90s, when factories that had previously flourished in the country relocated to other regions, many never to return. It took more than ten years of U.S. preferential trade policies to enable the garment industry to reach the same pre-embargo level of exports. That is why we are urging your collaboration so we can prevent such a situation taking place again.

More than ever, Haiti needs the certainty that HOPE/HELP preferences will continue to sustain the garment sector. With limited legislative days left this year, time is of the essence, so we want to urge you to mobilize your colleagues – on both sides of the aisle – to get this important legislation promptly reauthorized.

We look forward to working with you to reauthorize the HOPE-HELP Act, a matter of paramount importance for Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the current and potential U.S. companies operating there.



**Jean-Philippe Boisson**  
Président  
AmCham Haiti



**Edwin De los Santos**  
President  
AMCHAMDR