



September 2, 2025

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Re: Renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

Dear Ambassador Greer,

On behalf of the Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART), I am writing to respectfully urge the Trump Administration to support the timely renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which is set to expire at the end of September.

SMART represents U.S. companies engaged in the reuse, recycling, and repurposing of textiles—a global industry that plays a critical role in extending the life of textiles, reducing waste, and supporting sustainable commerce. Our members are among the most significant exporters of secondhand clothing and other reclaimed textile products in the world. In fact, our members' products are one of the top two textile and apparel exports from the United States in terms of volume.

AGOA has been instrumental in ensuring fair and reciprocal trade for our sector. As you will recall, when the East African Community (EAC) countries moved to impose a ban on secondhand clothing imports several years ago, SMART, with the support of the U.S. government, successfully pushed back against that ban. The Trump Administration's firm stance at the time was decisive, and we deeply appreciated the role your office played in ensuring that our trading partners upheld their obligations.

We continue to view AGOA as not only an important tool for strengthening economic ties with Africa—especially vital in countering China's growing influence on the continent—but also as a powerful deterrent against unfair trade practices. Its existence reinforces the principle that access to the U.S. market is contingent upon reciprocal and fair treatment of U.S. goods—including the goods of our industry. Should AGOA be allowed to lapse, we fear it would remove a critical mechanism for holding trading partners accountable, potentially emboldening new attempts to restrict access to their markets and undermining the principles of free and fair trade.

For these reasons, SMART strongly urges the Administration to support the reauthorization of AGOA before its expiration. We believe renewal will send a clear signal that the U.S. remains committed to ensuring accountability, fairness, and mutual benefit in trade relationships—values that directly benefit American businesses, American jobs, and the broader U.S. economy.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your support of our industry. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and to provide any additional perspective that would be helpful as you evaluate next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron Curtis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cameron Curtis
Executive Director
Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART)

Eric Warshaw

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Eric Warshaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ITAC-12 Advisor
Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART)