

Testimony for Mark D'Sa  
Senior Director, Sourcing & Production, Gap Inc.  
Hearing on Haiti  
Subcommittee of International Monetary Policy and Trade  
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Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the International Monetary Policy and Trade Sub-Committee. My name is Mark D'Sa and I am the Senior Director for Sourcing and Production at Gap Inc. and I thank you for inviting me to be a part of the discussion today.

Gap Inc. has been sourcing product in Haiti for a number of years and we remain committed to continuing to do business there. Even before the tragedy we were exploring internal recommendations to improve the business investment environment in Haiti so that more companies might want to invest in the country and to help build out the infrastructure.

Prior to the earthquake, we had determined that it made good sense to source out of Haiti because of the quality, the competitiveness, the efficiency of the factories and workforce, and the proximity to the U.S., our largest market.

As you may know, goods shipped from Haiti can reach the U.S. shore within 3 days; this is much quicker than many other locations where retail companies, including Gap, source products.

Despite the recent devastating tragedy, we are committed to Haiti resuming its rightful place again in the sourcing community. Our staff is working with Gap Inc.-contracted factories to facilitate a full return to business while working with the Haitian Government and departments of the U.S. Government to explore some of the other ways that the infrastructure might be improved in order to attract more potential investors to the country.

Haiti needed help before the earthquake and needs it more than ever now. The apparel industry had employed approximately 28,000 people before the quake and we believe more sustainable jobs could be created in textiles and apparel if the current trade legislation were amended to allow a wider mix of products from Haiti to have duty free access to the U.S.

My colleagues and I have met with people in the various committees with jurisdiction over trade policy and we are hopeful that some of the current legislation can be more liberalized so that investors could come to Haiti with confidence. This would create good jobs for the people of Haiti and offer a sourcing location with strategic proximity to support the needs or rapid response that U.S. retailers and brands require in today's environment.

Similarly we have encouraged both the U.S. and Haitian governments to focus on infrastructure development, which would benefit both local and foreign companies as

well as the Haitian people themselves. Improvements to the ports and roads, power supply and communication, as well as urban transportation are critical to long-term, sustainable development. In the short to medium term, of course, progress must continue to be made in ensuring delivery of food and the provision of better shelter for the Haitian people.

Following the earthquake in Haiti a few months ago, our company and our employees joined forces to raise more than \$300,000 for Mercy Corps' recovery efforts, and, at the same time, the factory that makes our clothes was among the first to be able to put Haitian employees back to work. We also continue to explore other ways that the company might be able to help.

I want to thank the U.S. Government for taking such strong and proactive action in the aftermath of the earthquake as well as for their commitment to supporting a real recovery in the textile and apparel production sector.

We appreciate the swift action and encourage this committee to work with your colleagues here in Congress and all the relevant governmental agencies to coordinate an effort that can be lasting and sustainable for the investment environment in Haiti.

Gap Inc. remains committed to sourcing in Haiti and we continue to explore how we can increase our sourcing over time, with a goal of fostering the sustainability and growth of the industry over the long term.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your commitment to and interest in Haiti and thanks again to you and the Committee for inviting me to be a part of the discussion today.