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**Leaders Seek a Fashionable Agenda for New White House Task Force**

*Fashion, textile, jewelry, manufacturing, recycling and reuse industry leaders seek to engage with the Biden Administration to design robust trade and environmental policies crucial to the sustainability of the fashion industry.*

**Washington, DC** *PoliticallyInFashion* today announced leaders in the multi-trillion dollar, multi-national fashion industry sent a letter to President Biden asking him to include representatives from the design, retail and manufacturing*,* recycling and reusesectors of the fashion, textiles and jewelry industries on the new [White House Task Force on Climate and Trade](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2024/04/16/remarks-as-prepared-for-john-podesta-columbia-global-energy-summit/).

There are challenges facing the industry including an unlevel playing field for international trade and a lack of strong environmental data and standards. As an industry that globally is a leading producer of carbon emissions and also a key player in global trade, the signers seek to engage with the new task force to design robust trade and environmental policies that will be crucial to the sustainability of the fashion industry.

“I am honored to have worked with brand and thought-leaders to bring to the attention of the Biden Administration the need for engagement with the many sectors of the fashion industry. Public policy is not a trend. It is a foundation for success for these creative, and economically strategic, industries in the US,”said Hilary Jochmans, Founder, *PoliticallyInFashion.*

Last week, the President's climate czar, John Podesta, announced the formation of this new task force which is charged with:

1. Developing a climate and trade policy toolkit to address carbon issues.

2. Ensuring the US has credible, robust, and granular data to implement smart climate and trade policies.

3. Identifying what more can be done domestically and internationally to further position producers to thrive in a “new race-to-the-top environment” for climate action.

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**Quotes from Signers:**

ACT CEO, Rachel Kibbe, "American Circular Textiles mission is to develop supportive domestic policy for the textile reuse and recycling sectors. Apparel, footwear, accessories and home linens combined are larger in domestic sales market value than single passenger vehicles, and circular textile businesses possess the solutions and innovations to catalyze economic, job and environmental opportunities right here at home.  The Administration should ensure the textile reuse and recycling sectors are a member of the climate and trade task force.”

BFG Lab, Founder, Lauren B. Fey - "The amount of waste generated during the end-of-life phase of our current fashion system, especially in ecommerce, is significant and requires close monitoring, measurement, and prevention. This waste has a substantial environmental impact."

Fashion Mingle, Melissa Shea, CEO - "The establishment of the White House Task Force on Climate and Trade is an important step forward for the U.S. Government to continue our march toward solving the climate crisis. All facets of the fashion industry supply chain must be at the table to realistically reduce waste and the carbon footprint of the industry. We hope the Biden Administration acknowledges the importance of the fashion industry and its negative impact on the environment by prioritizing participation from stakeholders to help make progress on climate goals."

Helpsy - "As a certified B-Corp dedicated to keeping clothing out of the trash, Helpsy is honored to add its voice to the call for representation in climate and trade policy. We urge the Administration to recognize the vital role of the fashion, textiles, and jewelry sectors in climate and trade discussions. Let's unite for a greener, fairer future for our planet and our industries."

Jewelers Vigilance Committee -  “The jewelry industry has been prioritizing waste reduction and material reuse for centuries due to the strong retained value of the materials used in jewelry production.  Including the jewelry industry in this important climate work would demonstrate the importance of building in practices of reuse into manufacturing supply chains and the relevance of this practice to the conversation on climate.”

NYES - New York Embroidery Studio applauds the administration's efforts to support US Manufacturing, as well their efforts to address climate change.  We also believe it's critical for the fashion industry to have a seat at the table as these complicated and consequential policies are crafted to ensure the economic security of this vital domestic industrial base.

**About**

*PoliticallyInFashion* is a community engagement platform for all those in fashion to learn about legislative and regulatory issues of key importance to the industry. The mission is to educate individuals on public policy; and empower them with this knowledge; to then engage with elected representatives on how these issues impact companies and consumers. Recent initiatives from *PoliticallyInFashion* include spearheading advocacy for the creation of a Fashion Czar in the US and Call to Action for the Federal Trade Commission to update the Green Guides.

A coalition of fashion brands and thought-leaders sharing their sustainability stories with policy makers who can effect change for the industry.

Recognizing the need to bridge the information gap between industry and policy makers, the Coalition provides an educational forum for industry leaders to learn directly about key legislation and regulation impactful to the movement and for elected officials to learn first-hand about the successes, challenges, and opportunities in sustainability.

