



CEPA Encourages Expanded Apparel Sourcing in Central America to Address Root Causes of Migration

WASHINGTON, D.C., (May 16, 2022) -- The [Coalition for Economic Partnerships in the Americas](#) (CEPA), a group of major American companies and manufacturers dedicated to promoting regional trade and job growth, today released the following statement regarding a [new study](#) by Dr. Sheng Lu, associate professor of fashion and apparel studies at the University of Delaware, encouraging expanded apparel sourcing from partner countries in the Dominican-Republic Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR.)

“U.S. apparel sourcing from CAFTA-DR can play a crucial role in the economic stability and success of countries in Central America,” said **CEPA spokesperson Beth Hughes**. “Right now, under CAFTA-DR, the U.S. has not had the ability to source apparel from Central America to its highest potential. We [must expand U.S. apparel sourcing](#) by improving apparel production capacity, diversifying its product offers and solving supply chain issues. Utilizing CAFTA-DR will better-position American businesses to source apparel from the region and create long-term investments in Central American countries. These investments promise to create job opportunities and bring economic stability and long term prosperity to the region, mitigating the root causes of migration. CEPA encourages developing comprehensive and humanitarian solutions to our trade problems, through economic partnerships in the Western Hemisphere.”

Learn more about the Coalition for Economic Partnerships in the Americas here:
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