



CEPA Calls for Consensus Solution to Reverse Record Drop in CAFTA-DR Utilization Rate

WASHINGTON, D.C., (February 14, 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 the record drop in CAFTA-DR utilization in 2021.

“The utilization rate of CAFTA-DR for apparel sourcing fell to a new low in 2021, validating the complaints of many in the industry,” **said CEPA spokesperson Beth Hughes.** “[A record number](#) of U.S. apparel imports from CAFTA-DR member countries did not claim duty-free benefits, driven by continued downward pressure from regional issues, COVID-19, transportation, production, and an insufficient supply of qualifying inputs. CEPA continues to call for an urgent agenda to bring the region’s potential to higher levels of engagement for workers, investors, and communities. Now is the time to address the challenges facing the region’s supply chain, infrastructure, and partnerships. By developing a consensus solution to reverse this trend, we can increase trade, encourage economic investment, and support more sustainable manufacturing jobs throughout the Western Hemisphere.”

Learn more about the Coalition for Economic Partnerships in the Americas here: <https://cepacoalition.com/>

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