

Subject: Support of Georgia Traditional Industries Program

Dear Representative/Senator

I am writing to ask for your continued support for the Georgia Traditional Industries Program (TIP). TIP is unique among state programs in its approach of bringing together academia and private industry to focus on manufacturing competitiveness issues. The program provides a formal structure for harnessing the research and technical capabilities of the University System of Georgia to address industry-wide competitiveness needs and challenges facing Georgia's traditional industry sectors. TIP's main focus is on sustainability and product enhancement/innovation issues.

In FY10 the legislature funded the TIP program at the \$1.5M level. A level similar in FY11 is needed to insure that the work that has been started is not lost due to a lack of funding. It does not make any economic sense to discontinue any amount of funding for existing projects. There are currently 13 non-biomass projects and 6 biomass projects that are slated for continuation in FY11.

I fully understand the economic constraints the State is under but feel TIP is an investment in our economic development by enhancing our competitiveness and ultimately providing more jobs for Georgians. The carpet industry is a vital sector to Georgia's economy. The continuation of the TIP programs will specifically help insure that industry remain competitive in the future.

I urge your continued support for the Georgia Traditional Industries Program as it is important for job growth, economic development, and it would be a shame to waste the funding that has already been spent by not continuing ongoing programs.

Sincerely,