



Black Market for Yarn Costs NC Jobs, Lawmakers Say

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YADKINVILLE, N.C. (WGHP)— Sen. Kay Hagan is supporting a bill that she said would help North Carolinians keep their textile jobs.

The Textile Enforcement and Security Act would make it more difficult for fraudulent yarn to make it into the United States.

Over the past decade, the textile industry has seen more yarn being made in other countries but intentionally mislabeled and sold as being "Made in the USA." Hagan said the counterfeit yarn has cost companies more than \$1 billion.

As [North Carolina](#) is still the nation's largest yarn producer, the state is heavily affected by this trend.

One of the companies affected, [Unifi](#), had to close one of its Yadkinville locations two years ago, costing 300 people their jobs.

"Had yarn not been used illegally, we may have kept the plant open," said Bill Jasper, CEO of Unifi.

"Our yarn and fabric producers in North Carolina are competing in an unfair and harmful trading agreement environment that is costing American jobs," Hagan said.

Hagan toured the Yadkinville facility, which makes polyester and nylon textured yarn, on Monday and stressed the importance of the bill.

The bill has four main tenets:

1. Establish an electronic verification program that will track the yarn and the fabric imports into companies operating under a free trade agreement
2. Increase the number of textile and apparel verification specialists at the 15 largest US ports
3. Increase textile staff at the customs and border protection agency headquarters
4. Publish a list of fraudulent companies

Hagan said the bill has bipartisan support, and she hopes it will pass this summer.