

Remarks on Signing the Judicial Redress Act of 2015 *February 24, 2016*

Well, I want to congratulate the Members of Congress who are standing behind me here today. The bill I'm about to sign is entitled the Judicial Redress Act bill. And what it does in the simplest terms is makes sure that everybody's data is protected in the strongest possible way with our privacy laws: not only American citizens, but also foreign citizens.

We take our privacy seriously. And along with our commitment to innovation, one—that's one of the reasons that global companies and entrepreneurs want to do business here. We enforce our privacy laws, unlike a number of other countries. And in fact, just this month, we finished a landmark new agreement called the Privacy Shield, which provides tough new protections to safeguard consumer data, and it gives certainty to thousands of businesses representing hundreds of billions of dollars in trade.

And we've also established the first Privacy Council to strengthen protections of people's

personal information and privacy rights across the Federal Government. And we've put new laws and policies in place that clarify what we do and what we do not do when it comes to people's data and our intelligence efforts.

The Members of Congress who are here, they have been leaders in these efforts. It is bipartisan. I want to thank Members both in the House and the Senate who worked so hard on it. And I think this is one more step in what is this evolving process, as we get deep into the Information Age, to make sure that even as we protect America's security, we're also mindful of the privacy that we cherish so much.

So with that, I'm going to sign the bill. Thank you, everybody, for doing a great job on this.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:39 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. H.R. 1428, approved February 24, was assigned Public Law No. 114–126.

Remarks on Signing the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 *February 24, 2016*

Well, trade is a major topic of debate here in the United States and around the world. One area where there should be no debate is that once we've set up trade rules, people have to abide by them. We can't have other countries cheating. We can't have other countries engaged in practices that disadvantage American workers and American businesses.

One of the things I've very proud of is that we have ramped up enforcement of our trade laws to protect American workers and American businesses like never before. In areas like steel, for example, we've brought more cases than we had in the previous decade. We've brought more cases before the World Trade Organization, the WTO, than any other administration. And the ones that we've brought, we have won. In fact, we just won a case against India this week.

And so it is timely, then, for us to be signing this bipartisan customs bill, because it's an important milestone in our trade agenda. I want to thank all the Members of Congress who stand behind me here and worked on this diligently. It was a hard piece of business, but what it does is it helps us enforce our trade agreements by providing more resources for enforcement, by streamlining the process whereby we can bring an action if a country is illegally dumping goods or involved in countervailing duties. It makes sure that these other countries are playing by the rules, and it gives us more personnel to do it as well.

I also want to thank Senator Bennet in particular, because he gives us new tools—the provision that he helped to craft in this legislation gives us new tools to deal with currency devaluations that are designed to undercut

U.S. goods, U.S. exports, and our balance of trade. This strengthens our ability to penalize countries that fail to live up to their obligations. And overall, this is an example of smart trade policy in the 21st century.

We are not going to be able to close our borders. The global supply chain is deeply embedded in everything we do, and our exports produce jobs for Americans in every State that typically pay higher than nonexport jobs. So we want to trade. And we've got the best workers, we've got the best businesses, we make the best products and provide the best services. In order for us to make sure, though, that we're getting the benefits of trade, we've got to have these enforcement tools, and this legislation helps us accomplish this.

So I want to thank all of you for the great work that you have done. And I expect our Customs and Border patrol—which just brought some additional cases today with respect to steel—I expect them to use these tools wisely to make sure that we're getting the job done. All right?

And with that, I'm going to sign the bill.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

There you go. Thank you very much, everybody. Good job.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:49 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. H.R. 644, approved February 24, was assigned Public Law No. 114-125.

Statement on Signing the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 February 24, 2016

Today I have signed into law H.R. 644, the “Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015,” an Act that is an important milestone to the overall U.S. trade agenda and that will help our workers and businesses to compete fairly with the rest of the world. This bipartisan piece of legislation will strengthen trade enforcement at our ports, improve our ability to combat evasion of our enforcement actions, and improve transparency, accountability, and coordination in enforcement efforts. It also provides unprecedented new measures to address unfair currency practices by establishing a process that directs the executive branch to confront countries that engage in such practices and to impose penalties on countries that fail to remedy these issues.

The Act provides new tools and authorities for U.S. companies and workers to more effectively hold our trading partners accountable—now and into the future—and press for the investigation of cases of duty evasion. Antidumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) orders are a critical tool for cracking down on unfair competition by trading partners and companies that put American workers and businesses, such as in the steel industry, at a disadvan-

tage. The Act will allow U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Department of Commerce to more effectively enforce AD/CVD orders and allow CBP to act more quickly to prevent importers from evading AD/CVD orders on unfairly traded imports of steel and other products. The Act will also improve communication between U.S. Government agencies and the private sector over how duty evasion investigations are proceeding, heighten accountability throughout the enforcement process, and more effectively counter attempts at duty evasion. It also enhances CBP efforts to combat the import of counterfeit goods and protect intellectual property rights holders and streamlines CBP operations by establishing the CBP Centers of Excellence and Expertise to enforce compliance and facilitate the flow of legitimate trade, thereby increasing U.S. competitiveness. And, it eliminates a provision that previously allowed some imports into the United States made, in whole or in part, with forced labor, including child labor.

The Act also provides tools to hold accountable trading partners that violate their trade obligations. The Act permanently establishes