

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2132

To extend nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 1997

Mr. CRANE (for himself and Mr. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To extend nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

4       The Congress finds that—

5               (1) the Lao People's Democratic Republic is  
6       striving to shed centralized government control of its  
7       economy in favor of market-oriented reforms;

8               (2) extension of unconditional most-favored-na-  
9       tion treatment would assist the Lao People's Demo-  
10      cratic Republic in developing its economy based on

1 free market principles and becoming competitive in  
2 the global marketplace;

3 (3) establishing normal commercial relations on  
4 a reciprocal basis with the Lao People's Democratic  
5 Republic will promote United States exports to the  
6 rapidly growing Southeast Asian region and expand  
7 opportunities for United States business and invest-  
8 ment in the Lao People's Democratic Republic econ-  
9 omy;

10 (4) United States and Laotian commercial in-  
11 terests would benefit from a commercial agreement  
12 between the United States and the Lao People's  
13 Democratic Republic providing for market access  
14 and the protection of intellectual property rights;

15 (5) economic reform in the Lao People's Demo-  
16 cratic Republic is increasingly important as that  
17 country integrates into the ASEAN Free Trade  
18 Area and accedes to the World Trade Organization;  
19 and

20 (6) expanding bilateral trade relations that in-  
21 clude a commercial agreement may promote further  
22 progress by the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
23 on human rights and democratic rule and assist that  
24 country in adopting regional and world trading rules  
25 and principles.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT**  
2 **TO THE PRODUCTS OF THE LAO PEOPLE’S**  
3 **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.**

4 (a) HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE AMEND-  
5 MENT.—General note 3(b) of the Harmonized Tariff  
6 Schedule of the United States is amended by striking  
7 “Laos”.

8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
9 subsection (a) applies with respect to goods entered, or  
10 withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after  
11 the effective date of a notice published in the Federal Reg-  
12 ister by the United States Trade Representative that a  
13 trade agreement obligating reciprocal most-favored-nation  
14 treatment between the Lao People’s Democratic Republic  
15 and the United States has entered into force.

16 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

17 The President shall submit to the Congress, not later  
18 than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this  
19 Act, a report on the trade relations between the United  
20 States and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic pursu-  
21 ant to the trade agreement described in section 2(b).

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