

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4288

To establish the negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, to establish criteria for the accession of state trading regimes to the WTO, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 1998

Mr. EWING introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To establish the negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, to establish criteria for the accession of state trading regimes to the WTO, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Agriculture Export
5 Enhancement Act of 1998”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE.—The term
2 “Agreement on Agriculture” means the Agreement
3 described in section 101(d)(2) of the Uruguay
4 Round Agreements Act.

5 (2) AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SAN-
6 ITARY; AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES.—The term
7 “Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and
8 Phytosanitary Measures” means the Agreement de-
9 scribed in section 101(d)(3) of the Uruguay Round
10 Agreements Act.

11 (3) URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS.—The term
12 “Uruguay Round Agreements” has the meaning
13 given such term in section 2(7) of the Uruguay
14 Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501(7)).

15 (4) WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION.—The term
16 “World Trade Organization” means the organization
17 established pursuant to the WTO Agreement.

18 (5) WTO AGREEMENT.—The term “WTO
19 Agreement” means the Agreement Establishing The
20 World Trade Organization entered into on April 15,
21 1994.

22 (6) WTO AND WTO MEMBER.—The terms
23 “WTO” and “WTO member” have the meanings
24 given those terms in section 2 of the Uruguay
25 Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501).

1 **SEC. 3. PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE NEGOTIATING**
2 **OBJECTIVES.**

3 The principle agricultural trade negotiating objectives
4 of the United States with respect to the WTO Agreement
5 on Agriculture shall include the following:

6 (1) **ELIMINATION OF TARIFFS ON AGRICUL-**
7 **TURAL PRODUCTS.**—The United States shall nego-
8 tiate a specific date after which tariffs imposed on
9 agricultural products shall be eliminated by WTO
10 members and the United States shall negotiate the
11 immediate elimination or substantial reduction of
12 the tariffs imposed on the following products by cer-
13 tain WTO members:

14 (A) Tariffs imposed on meat products by
15 Japan.

16 (B) Tariffs imposed on meat products by
17 South Korea.

18 (C) Tariffs imposed on grains, livestock,
19 and meat products by the Philippines.

20 (D) Tariffs imposed on wheat by South Af-
21 rica.

22 (E) Tariffs imposed on milling wheat,
23 corn, and sorghum by Turkey.

24 (2) **ELIMINATION OF EXPORT AND OTHER**
25 **TRADE-DISTORTING SUBSIDIES.**—The United States
26 shall negotiate a specific date after which all export

1 and other trade-distorting subsidies shall be elimi-
2 nated by WTO members and the United States shall
3 negotiate the elimination of the following subsidies
4 provided by the certain WTO members:

5 (A) Export subsidies on wheat, wheat
6 flour, beef, and poultry provided by the Euro-
7 pean Union.

8 (B) Domestic subsidies on pork and feed
9 grains provided by the European Union.

10 (3) ELIMINATION OF THE UNFAIR OR TRADE-
11 DISTORTING ACTIVITIES OF STATE TRADING ENTER-
12 PRISES.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
14 shall negotiate the elimination of the exclusive
15 right of state trading enterprises to import ag-
16 ricultural products in the case of members of
17 the WTO and shall negotiate the elimination of
18 the ability of state trading enterprises to use
19 their exclusive authority over the export of agri-
20 cultural products to distort trade and inter-
21 national prices.

22 (B) SPECIFIC REFORMS.—The United
23 States shall negotiate the following specific re-
24 forms with respect to the activities of state
25 trading enterprises:

1 (i) Ensure that Australia adheres to
2 its commitment to end the export monop-
3 oly of the Australia Wheat Board no later
4 than January 1, 1999.

5 (ii) Ensure that Canada eliminates
6 the discretionary pricing practices of the
7 Canadian Wheat Board.

8 (4) ELIMINATION OF UNJUSTIFIED SANITARY
9 AND PHYTOSANITARY RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF
10 UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.—The
11 United States shall negotiate the elimination of the
12 following sanitary and phytosanitary restrictions on
13 imports of United States agricultural products to
14 the extent that the restrictions are inconsistent with
15 the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary
16 and Phytosanitary Measures:

17 (A) Australia’s quarantine and health re-
18 strictions on imports of livestock and poultry.

19 (B) Australia’s prohibition on poultry im-
20 ports in the absence of WTO-required risk as-
21 sessments.

22 (C) Australia’s ban on cooked pork.

23 (D) Australia’s requirement that most feed
24 grains be steam-treated or processed in an al-

1 ternative satisfactory manner at the port of
2 entry.

3 (E) Chile's refusal to permit United States
4 beef in consumer cuts to enter the market with-
5 out being graded to Chilean standards.

6 (F) Egypt's refusal to adhere to the stand-
7 ard international practice of allowing producers
8 to determine the shelf life of their product.

9 (G) The European Union's failure to re-
10 quire labeling only for health or safety reasons.

11 (H) The failure of the European Union's
12 Specified Risk Material regulations to recognize
13 regional disease differences in animal disease
14 status and to account for available scientific in-
15 formation and advice relating to the control of
16 bovine spongiform encephalopathy and other
17 transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in
18 products of animal origin.

19 (I) The failure of the European Union to
20 implement the requirements of the WTO with
21 respect to the European Union's ban on growth
22 promoting hormones in meat production.

23 (J) The European Union's lengthy and un-
24 predictable approval process for agricultural

1 products that contain genetically modified orga-
 2 nisms.

3 (K) Greece’s ban on the import of United
 4 States wheat.

5 (L) India’s sanitary and phytosanitary re-
 6 strictions on imports of United States wheat.

7 (M) Israel’s ban on imports of non-kosher
 8 meat and meat products.

9 (N) South Korea’s excessive labeling re-
 10 quirements.

11 (O) South Korea’s failure to base its
 12 standards and testing procedures on scientific
 13 risk assessment.

14 (P) Poland’s zero tolerance policy on weed
 15 seeds.

16 (Q) Turkey’s ban on cattle and beef im-
 17 ports.

18 **SEC. 4. ACCESSION OF COUNTRIES WITH STATE TRADING**
 19 **ENTERPRISES TO GENERAL AGREEMENT ON**
 20 **TARIFFS AND TRADE AND WORLD TRADE OR-**
 21 **GANIZATION.**

22 Section 1106 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitive-
 23 ness Act of 1988 (19 U.S.C. 2905) is amended—

24 (1) by striking “major foreign country” each
 25 place it appears and inserting “foreign country”;

1 (2) in subsection (a), by amending paragraph
2 (1) to read as follows:

3 “(1) whether state trading enterprises produce
4 or procure a significant share of—

5 “(A) the goods exported from such foreign
6 country;

7 “(B) the goods imported into such foreign
8 country; or

9 “(C) the goods produced domestically in
10 such foreign country; and”; and

11 (3) in subsection (b)(2)(A)—

12 (A) by amending clause (i) to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(i) will make purchases and sales in
15 international trade based solely on com-
16 mercial considerations (including price,
17 quality, availability, marketability, and
18 transportation), and”; and

19 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “, in accord-
20 ance with customary practice,”.

21 **SEC. 5. ACCESSION OF CHINA TO THE WTO.**

22 The United States shall not agree to the accession
23 of the People’s Republic of China to the WTO until the
24 President certifies to Congress the following:

1 (1) The People's Republic of China evenly ap-
2 plies phytosanitary and veterinary import quarantine
3 standards that are based upon modern laboratory
4 techniques.

5 (2) The People's Republic of China agrees to
6 eliminate the restrictive import licensing require-
7 ments it imposes on pork products.

8 (3) The People's Republic of China agrees to
9 permit the unrestricted importation of meat prod-
10 ucts.

11 **SEC. 6. THE ACCESSION OF RUSSIA TO THE WTO.**

12 The United States shall not agree to the accession
13 of Russia to the WTO until the President certifies to Con-
14 gress the following:

15 (1) Russia agrees to change the Russian Veteri-
16 nary Department requirements in a manner that
17 brings the requirements into conformity with the
18 WTO's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary
19 and Phytosanitary Measures. In particular the re-
20 quirements must be more transparent and based on
21 sound science.

22 (2) Russia agrees to change other sanitary and
23 phytosanitary requirements that violate the WTO
24 Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and
25 Phytosanitary Measures, especially the requirements

- 1 governing the import of planting seeds and meat
- 2 products.

