

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 922

To prohibit the use of the “Made in USA” label on products of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to deny such products duty-free and quota-free treatment.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 1999

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. HOLLINGS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To prohibit the use of the “Made in USA” label on products of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to deny such products duty-free and quota-free treatment.

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 “Made in USA Label
5 Defense Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) manufacturing facilities in the Common-
2 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (in this Act
3 referred to as the “CNMI”) are misleading con-
4 sumers in the United States by promoting their
5 products as “made in the USA” when these prod-
6 ucts are in fact made in the CNMI by foreign work-
7 ers using foreign materials under foreign super-
8 vision;

9 (2) the misuse of United States-origin claims on
10 these products is a fraud and deception on patriotic
11 consumers in the United States, who rely on the
12 truth of these claims and who look for this label in
13 order to support the United States and jobs in this
14 country;

15 (3) these goods, which receive duty-free treat-
16 ment and which unfairly compete against products
17 actually made in the United States, thereby destroy-
18 ing the jobs of tens of thousands of workers
19 throughout the United States, are currently being
20 exported by the CNMI to the United States in
21 amounts valued at more than \$1,000,000,000;

22 (4) United States taxpayers are being forced to
23 unfairly subsidize these foreign-produced goods in
24 the amount of at least \$200,000,000 annually as a

1 result of the unfair duty-free treatment they now
2 enjoy, unlike other goods produced in Asia;

3 (5) the CNMI has not only refused to control
4 foreign immigration into its territory, but has ag-
5 gressively encouraged the importation of low-wage
6 foreign workers to the extent that these workers now
7 comprise a majority of CNMI's population and over
8 90 percent of its private sector work force;

9 (6) in the CNMI, many foreign workers have
10 been required to sign contracts with representatives
11 of the People's Republic of China which forbid par-
12 ticipation in religious and political activities and
13 which prohibit workers from dating or marrying
14 while in United States territory; and

15 (7) the CNMI has consistently ignored repeated
16 warnings from the United States Government re-
17 garding the importation and exploitation of these
18 workers.

19 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTIONS ON GOODS IMPORTED FROM**
20 **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.**

21 The joint resolution entitled "Joint Resolution to ap-
22 prove the 'Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the
23 Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the
24 United States of America', and for other purposes", ap-

1 proved March 24, 1976 (48 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), is
2 amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

3 **“SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON IDENTIFICATION OF CERTAIN**
4 **GOODS AS MADE IN THE UNITED STATES.**

5 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no
6 product that is made in the Northern Mariana Islands
7 shall have a stamp, tag, label, or other means of identifica-
8 tion or substitute therefor on or affixed to the product
9 stating ‘Made in the USA’ or otherwise stating or imply-
10 ing that the product was made or assembled in the United
11 States.

12 **“SEC. 8. DUTY-FREE TREATMENT OF PRODUCTS PRODUCED**
13 **BY UNITED STATES CITIZENS.**

14 “Notwithstanding General Note 3(a)(iv) of the Har-
15 monized Tariff Schedule of the United States, any provi-
16 sion of the covenant set forth in the first section of this
17 joint resolution, or any other provision of law, no product
18 that is made in the Northern Mariana Islands shall be
19 admitted free of duty or quotas into the customs territory
20 of the United States as the product of a United States
21 insular possession.”.

22 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

23 The amendments made by this Act apply to goods
24 entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption,

1 on or after the 15th day after the date of enactment of
2 this Act.

