

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 714

To urge the United States Trade Representative to pursue the establishment of a small business advocate within the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5, 2001

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. KERRY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To urge the United States Trade Representative to pursue the establishment of a small business advocate within the World Trade Organization, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) The number of United States small busi-
6 nesses involved in exporting has tripled since 1987.

7 (2) The dollar value of small business exports
8 has grown 300 percent over the past 5 years.

1 (3) Small business now accounts for 31 percent
2 of the value of United States exports.

3 (4) Overall, 97 percent of all exporters are
4 small businesses, with the most dramatic export
5 growth among companies employing less than 20
6 people.

7 (5) Firms engaged in international trade are 20
8 percent more productive and employee wages are 15
9 percent higher than firms that do not engage in
10 international trade.

11 (6) Firms that engage in international trade
12 are 9 percent less likely to go bankrupt and experi-
13 ence 20 percent greater job growth than firms not
14 engaged in trade.

15 (7) Small and medium-sized businesses are the
16 fastest growing segment of the international busi-
17 ness community. However, many say that their in-
18 terests have not been given sufficient attention by
19 international trade negotiators.

20 (8) In the United States, less than 1 percent of
21 small businesses are engaged in trade-related busi-
22 ness activities.

23 (9) Small business advocates are not as visible
24 or vocal in the international trade arena as some

1 other sectors and interests due to lack of advocacy
2 resources.

3 (10) Small businesses often cannot afford to
4 maintain in-house international trade expertise to re-
5 solve trade problems.

6 (11) Small business advocacy groups often lack
7 political influence in foreign markets, which hinders
8 solving problems outside of the legal process.

9 (12) Small businesses often do not have the
10 sales volume to overcome the costs of trade barriers
11 and substantial overhead expenses in international
12 transactions.

13 (13) The World Trade Organization is the prin-
14 cipal international organization with respect to gov-
15 erning world-wide international trade.

16 (14) Better coordination is needed between
17 small businesses and small business support and ad-
18 vocacy organizations and trade agencies and organi-
19 zations around the world.

20 (15) The World Trade Organization has the po-
21 tential to address a wide range of global trade issues
22 of concern to small businesses in the United States.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**
2 **AT WTO.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that
4 the United States Trade Representative should pursue the
5 establishment of a small business advocate at the World
6 Trade Organization to safeguard the interests of small
7 firms and represent those interests in trade negotiations
8 involving the World Trade Organization.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date
10 of enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Rep-
11 resentative shall submit an interim report to Congress on
12 the steps taken by the United States Trade Representative
13 to pursue the establishment of a small business advocate
14 at the World Trade Organization. The United States
15 Trade Representative shall submit a final report on the
16 steps taken to establish a small business advocate not later
17 than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

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