

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3943

To extend nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment)
to the products of Laos.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2004

Mr. CRANE (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. WELLER, Mr. CASE, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To extend nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade
relations treatment) to the products of Laos.

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. EXTENSION OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TO**
4 **LAOS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (1) the Lao People's Democratic Republic is
7 pursuing a broad policy of adopting market-based
8 reforms to enhance its economic competitiveness and
9 achieve an attractive climate for investment;

1 (2) extension of normal trade relations treat-
2 ment would assist the Lao People’s Democratic Re-
3 public in developing its economy based on free mar-
4 ket principles and becoming competitive in the global
5 marketplace;

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

13 (4) United States and Laotian commercial in-
14 terests would benefit from the bilateral trade agree-
15 ment between the United States and the Lao Peo-
16 ple’s Democratic Republic, signed in 2003, providing
17 for market access and the protection of intellectual
18 property rights;

19 (5) the Lao People’s Democratic Republic has
20 taken cooperative steps with the United States in
21 the global war on terrorism, combating the traf-
22 ficking of narcotics, and the accounting for Amer-
23 ican servicemen and civilians still missing from the
24 Vietnam war; and

1 (6) expanding bilateral trade relations that in-
2 clude a commercial agreement may promote further
3 progress by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic
4 on human rights, religious tolerance, democratic
5 rule, and transparency, and assist that country in
6 adopting regional and world trading rules and prin-
7 ciples.

8 (b) EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREAT-
9 MENT TO THE PRODUCTS OF THE LAO PEOPLE’S DEMO-
10 CRATIC REPUBLIC.—

11 (1) HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE AMEND-
12 MENT.—General note 3(b) of the Harmonized Tariff
13 Schedule of the United States is amended by strik-
14 ing “Laos”.

15 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
16 by paragraph (1) applies with respect to goods en-
17 tered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consump-
18 tion, on or after the effective date of a notice pub-
19 lished in the Federal Register by the United States
20 Trade Representative that a trade agreement obli-
21 gating reciprocal most-favored-nation treatment be-
22 tween the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the
23 United States has entered into force.

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