

lay-off workers and, in some cases, declare bankruptcy. In my own state, workers at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point Division have been subjected to shorter hours, shorter shifts and even the shutting down of Sparrows Point's galvanized steel line.

Mr. President, for the past fifteen years, the U.S. steel industry has worked aggressively to streamline its operations, improve productivity and cut costs, but it cannot compete against illegally dumped steel. It is, in fact, time for this Congress to Stand Up For Steel.

With this legislation, we can begin to do just that. The Trade Fairness Act of 1999 is comprised of two sections which will enhance the ability of the Administration to take action on this crisis. The first of these sections amends the emergency safeguards provisions, Section 201, of the 1974 Trade Act which allows the President to grant temporary import relief to a domestic industry which the International Trade Commission finds has been seriously injured by increased imports. This section seeks not only to ensure that the steel industry is treated equitably, but that all domestic industries may be allowed to compete fairly in the global marketplace.

The second section creates a comprehensive steel import monitoring program which requires importers to provide information including the name and address of the importer, supplier and producer of the goods to be imported, the country of origin of the goods, the expected date of entry of the goods, a description of the goods, including the classification of these goods under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, and the quantity of the goods to be imported. This information will aid the Administration in monitoring the amount of steel brought into the United States and allow these numbers to be tabulated and released at a rate faster than at present.

Mr. President, as you know, on January 7, the Administration submitted the "Report to Congress on a Comprehensive Plan for Responding to the Increase in Steel Imports." I am disappointed that this report appears largely to be a recital of things already done by the Administration, rather than new steps planned to address the problem. The Administration should be focusing on keeping America's steelworkers in their line of work, instead of in line collecting unemployment. For over a century, the steel industry has stood tall and served as a foundation of the American economy. The time for the Administration to Stand Up For Steel is now. The U.S. steel industry and the 226,000 Americans employed by it deserve nothing less than the full support of their country.

The Trade Fairness Act of 1999 would allow the Administration to provide strong support for the American steel industry. I strongly urge my colleagues to support its passage.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROFESSIONALS

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Professionals (PASAP), who will be holding their ninth annual conference in Pittsburgh from March 14-16. The PASAP is a state-wide organization comprised of school officials, teachers, treatment center and medical personnel, psychologists and other professionals who address the influence of alcohol, drugs and mental health issues on students in the 501 Pennsylvania school districts.

The theme of this year's conference, "Help is Just Down the Hall—Building Resilience, Building Partners, Building America's Future," will focus on parental involvement, crisis response in a school setting and other issues focusing on the at-risk student population.

According to state statistics, more than 61,000 students were directly helped during the last school year as a result of the Student Assistance program process.

The PASAP provide a state forum for sharing resources, common needs, experience and outcomes and promote the development of joint school and community programs for youth. The PASAP also provide leadership and training on national, regional, state and local levels as well as advocate for increased local, state and federal support for student assistance programs, treatment services and related personnel in the public and private sector.

Mr. President, the PASAP has altered the course of many lives among Pennsylvania's youth. I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending the PASAP for their committed efforts to the well-being of the youth in Pennsylvania and the future of our country.●

#### TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, Senator MURKOWSKI and I have submitted a resolution that is critical to the future health and well-being of the people of Taiwan and the rest of the world. I rise today to express my support for the resolution regarding the Republic of China on Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO). Improving health care in Asia, and around the world, is one of the most important issues facing the international community as we move into the 21st century. Despite the fact that many people are better off today than their parents and grandparents were years ago, we still face tremendous obstacles to establishing basic health care in a number of regions around the world. To this date, children are still not vaccinated, clean water and sanitation are still not available to hundreds of millions of people, curative drugs and treatments are still inaccessible,

and over 500,000 mothers die unnecessarily each year in childbirth.

The WHO has been instrumental in helping to draw attention to these issues, and to bring needed relief to some of the most underprivileged people in the world. As we all know, sickness and disease span across borders and can affect anyone, regardless of where he or she lives. Here in the United States, we have been lucky enough to enjoy relatively easy access to the newest advances in medical technology and knowledge. However, the people of Taiwan have not been so fortunate. The 21 million citizens of Taiwan are currently barred from accessing the same technologies and techniques through the WHO that many other nations benefit from.

In addition, the Taiwan has been frustrated in its attempts to share its own medical knowledge with the rest of the world. Until Taiwan gains membership in the WHO, it cannot contribute its substantial expertise in health care to furthering the organization's goals. We can all benefit from the advances Taiwan has made on its own, and Taiwan can, in turn, improve its own situation by accessing the resources amassed by the WHO. The resolution that Senator MURKOWSKI and I have submitted addresses an issue of basic human decency, and I urge my colleagues to support our efforts to help Taiwan become a member of the WHO.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GUS OWEN, FORMER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEMBER

● Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Gus Owen, the immediate past Vice Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board (STB), for his outstanding service to the nation. Gus Owen completed his term of service on the STB on December 31, 1998, after more than four years of public service. It is most fitting that we recognize Mr. Owen's service because he met the challenge at a critical time in the history of railroad regulation.

As the last Commissioner sworn in to serve on the Interstate Commerce Commission, Mr. Owen was instrumental in shaping the direction of the STB, the ICC's successor. Mr. Owen's vision of a more streamlined deregulated transportation industry is reflected in his many accomplishments while serving on the ICC and the STB. As the 104th Congress began consideration of overhauling Government oversight of the surface transportation industry, Mr. Owen prepared a "Blueprint for Further Deregulation of the Surface Transportation Industry." This plan contained a 34-point analysis of the industry that endorsed market-based solutions over government regulation. Much of Mr. Owen's plan served as a basis for the ICC Termination Act of 1995, which authorized the replacement of the ICC with the more streamlined STB.

In his capacity as STB Member, Mr. Owen reviewed and voted on cases involving complicated antitrust, service, competition, environment, and labor issues, including the three largest railroad mergers in the history of the United States. These were the 1995 Burlington Northern-Santa Fe merger, the 1996 Union Pacific-Southern Pacific merger, and the 1998 CSX-Norfolk Southern-Conrail merger. Mr. Owen's insight, judgment, and expertise were key to the Board's successful adjudication of these incredibly complex cases.

Gus Owen has returned to the private sector and his family in California after an extremely successful four years of public service. The Nation has lost a talented, pragmatic, and respected STB Member, whose work with the transportation industry will have a significant and beneficial impact on that industry and our economy. We take pride in his record and wish him well in his return to private life. ●

#### AMERICAN STEEL WORKERS CRISIS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise to address the topic of steel imports. The dramatic reduction in the price of imported steel poses a significant challenge to America's steel industry. In the first ten months of 1998 alone (October is the last month for which figures are available), Japan more than doubled the level of imports compared to their year-end total for all of 1997. Japan's 882,000 net tons imported in October appears to be an all-time monthly record. However, Japan is not solely responsible for the surge in imports. The total October 1998 steel import level was the second highest monthly total ever, with over 4.1 million net tons—an increase of 56% over October 1997 levels.

Earlier this month, a representative of the United Steelworkers of America union claimed that 5,000 steelworkers had already received layoff notices and another 20,000 were working reduced hours because of these imports. More recent reports indicate the number of laid-off workers is fast approaching 10,000. The American Iron and Steel Institute recently released figures which demonstrate that U.S. domestic steel production had been nearly decimated by the unprecedented surge in imports. In November 1998, U.S. steel mills shipped approximately 7.4 million net tons. This represents a decrease of 12.8% from the roughly 8.5 million net tons shipped the previous November. Of even more concern is that November 1998 shipments were down 10.6% just from the previous month! And as the import figures outlined above indicate, the magnitude of the situation is growing, not diminishing.

Mr. President, there are several factors behind this surge in low-priced steel imports. First, the general deflationary trends in the global economy have caused all commodity prices—including steel prices—to plummet. In

my judgment, the Federal Reserve's tight monetary policy in 1997 and most of 1998 is to blame. While the Fed has taken corrective action to reduce short-term interest rates in recent months, commodity prices have yet to rebound. Second, the economic crisis in Asia and Russia has forced these countries to rely almost exclusively on exports to keep their economies afloat. Given the size of our manufacturing sector and our comparatively robust economic climate, the United States is an obvious, attractive export target for these nations. In many instances, the International Monetary Fund is to blame because it convinced these countries to either raise interest rates or devalue their currencies, which in turn allowed foreign steel to undercut American steel prices.

Against this macroeconomic backdrop of generally falling prices, some foreign steel companies may have engaged in the practice of "dumping"—that is, selling steel below the cost of production. While we are eager to offer economic assistance to these struggling countries—and in many cases we have offered direct and indirect economic assistance to them—there is no reason we should have to compromise or ignore our trade laws.

So the question that confronts us today is: What do we—the Administration, the Congress—do about this serious problem? The Administration's lack of decisive action reportedly is due to their not wanting to risk subjecting the fragile economies in Asia, Russia and Brazil to further challenges. However, our willingness to assist our allies and trading partners ought not translate into requiring us to ignore unfair trading practices—and our own trade laws—or deleterious effects these practices have on our workers and domestic industry.

On the macroeconomic level, the Federal Reserve should focus on achieving price stability—and that means addressing deflation as well as inflation. The Clinton Administration must take decisive action on this matter quickly. Promising to talk to our trading partners in the hope of getting their cooperation in cutting back the import levels is not sufficient at this late date. In the international arena, the Administration must exert more leadership in arguing against currency devaluations. In the trade arena, the Administration must take firm action in enforcing our anti-dumping laws.

To this end, I have cosponsored S. 61, a bill introduced yesterday by Senator DEWINE, that would eliminate existing disincentives for fair trade in our trade laws. Specifically, under current trade law, duties and fines imposed on those engaged in dumping go directly to the U.S. Treasury. However, under the DEWINE bill, the duties or fines collected would be transferred to the affected industries, not to the U.S. Treasury. Therefore, continuation of unfair trade practices would result in the perpetrators of such activities ef-

fectively financially aiding their U.S. competitors.

It is important to note that this legislation does not create new duties or penalties, nor does it increase existing duties or penalties. Frankly, this legislation will not mandate that importers raise the price of steel one single penny, and therefore, it should not directly affect the market for under-priced steel. However, in the long run, producers who engage in dumping will have to seriously rethink their unfair trade practices. Because by continuing such practices, they only succeed in subsidizing those among our domestic industries that are being hurt by their illegal actions.

Mr. President, the recent surge in imported steel and the resulting job loss and scaled back production at U.S. steel plants may be a demonstration that current law does not effectively discourage unfair trade practices such as these. I have long been an ardent supporter of free and open trade. However, my support of free trade is prefaced on the notion that our trading partners will not engage in unfair trading practices, such as dumping, and that when our Nation is confronted by unfair trading practices, we will seek remedy, whether by invoking provisions in our own trade laws designed to combat such unfair trade practices or pursuing means of redress through international trade tribunals such as the World Trading Organization.

As long as our trade laws prohibit dumping, it is imperative for the Administration to adhere to them and to implement them where and when the circumstances require it. To fail to do so will have consequences, both for American workers and industry and for the principle of free trade that I believe is so important. More and more steel workers may be laid off and steel plants may begin to shut down. Our domestic steel industry, which has done so much over the last two decades to modernize and become competitive on an international basis, could become irreparably harmed.

If things deteriorate, we will see calls for quotas on steel imports. We will also see a political backlash against free trade, just at the time when we should be entering into free trade agreements with some of these very regions—Asia, Pacific Rim, and South America. This will only serve to set us back further from being the dominant player on the global marketplace in the next century.

Finally, let me pay tribute to the individuals and groups that have travelled all the way to Washington, D.C. to attend today's "Stand Up for Steel" rally. These people are here to raise our consciousness about the steel import situation. In my office alone, we have already received an estimated 15,000 letters on this issue. My constituents are rightly concerned by the situation. It is my hope that after attending the rally held at the Capitol this afternoon and after learning of