

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, a Senator from the State of Texas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CORNYN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will have 30 minutes of debate prior to the cloture vote on the miscellaneous trade and technical corrections conference report. Therefore, I expect cloture to occur shortly after 10 a.m. I expect cloture to be invoked, and if it is invoked I hope we can complete the conference report in short order.

I will talk to the Democratic leadership after the vote to see what time may be necessary during that postcloture period.

I also expect the appropriations conference report, the so-called omnibus package, will be filed today. If so, I hope we will be able to act on that measure at some point today or this evening. I am optimistic that we can, in fact, finish our work sometime today and adjourn this Congress.

While we are waiting for the omnibus conference reports, we will continue to try to process other cleared legislative items. The IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act conference report, is expected to arrive today from the House, and we will consider that legislation before we adjourn this year.

Finally, we have a very large number of nominations that are available on the Executive Calendar. It would be irresponsible to leave without acting on at least those nominations which we know are noncontroversial. We must move toward resolution of these nominations over the course of the day. We need to continue to pursue a way of clearing that Executive Calendar.

I will close so we can move on for the vote, but I have to add that I personally had a remarkable day yesterday. I had the opportunity to visit the Clinton Library for what was an exceptional and remarkable day in terms of having our former Presidents together in a wonderful bipartisan spirit. It was a rainy day so we all sat in 2 or 3 hours of the downpour. It really was an inspiration to see what has made and continues to make this country so great. It is a wonderful library. I have three boys and look forward to going back and taking them through a magnificent structure. It really does capture President Clinton's upbeat, optimistic

enthusiasm, his whole view of life. A number of the Senators attended. I wanted to mention it because it was quite remarkable for me, personally.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2004—CONFERENCE REPORT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1047, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report accompanying the bill (H.R. 1047) to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes divided in the following form: Senator GRASSLEY in control of 10 minutes; the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS, in control of 10 minutes; the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. FEINGOLD, for up to 8 minutes; and the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. KOHL, for up to 2 minutes.

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I don't see Senator GRASSLEY, the chairman of the committee, in the Chamber. I expect him momentarily. In the meantime, I will say a few words with respect to the pending legislation.

I am pleased, frankly, that in the final days of the 108th Congress, the Senate is set to pass at long last the miscellaneous tariff bill. This bill reduces or eliminates tariffs on literally hundreds of products that U.S. companies use to make products in America. It is a collection of many bills too small to be considered independently, and, traditionally, Congress collects these inexpensive and noncontroversial bills together into one big omnibus bill which the Senate then passes by unanimous consent. That is our tradition in the Senate.

Unfortunately, that did not happen with this bill this time. For the first time in the history of the process, the House insisted we go to conference on the bill. Frankly, that is unfortunate. In the aggregate, the provisions of this bill represent a significant cost savings for U.S. manufacturers simply struggling to compete. We owe it to them to get the process back on track in the next Congress. I hope we can do that, and I promise to work very hard toward that end.

I wish to highlight two provisions in this bill in particular that will help my State of Montana remain competitive. One is a provision that eliminates the tariff on specialized components used by a Bozeman-based boot manufacturer called Schnee Shoes. This is a top-of-the-line company. They make the best

boots for hunting. If a hunter goes out pheasant hunting, duck hunting, you buy Schnee. They are terrific. They produce first-class products. Eliminating the tariff will save them tens of thousands of dollars a year and allow them to keep good-paying jobs in Bozeman, MT.

The other provision improves the competitiveness of U.S. wool. We produce a lot of wool in Montana—\$2 million a year. As other commodities and textiles, wool has faced an increasingly difficult marketplace over the past several years.

In response, U.S. wool growers adopted a positive approach to embrace world markets; that is, setting up a wool trust fund. Through the wool trust fund, first established in 2000, U.S. exports of wool have risen sixfold as a share of domestic production. This successful program of the wool trust fund is, unfortunately, scheduled to expire next year. But this bill renews the wool trust fund through the year 2007 and allows the United States and Montana wool growers to continue to compete.

I also want to speak about one other provision of this bill, normal trade relations with Laos, that I know has generated some controversy. I support granting normal trade relations to Laos. In the absence of normal trade relations, Laos is subject to average tariffs of 45 percent, with peaks of 60 to 90 percent for important Laotian products such as T-shirts and bamboo chairs.

In contrast, most U.S. trading partners, including Laotian competitors Burma, China, Cambodia, and Vietnam, face average tariffs of only 2.4 percent compared, again, with Laos of 45 percent.

Now, I know some of my colleagues oppose granting normal trade relations to Laos. They believe Laos must work harder on improving its human rights record before receiving normal trade relations. But normal trade relations, I must emphasize, is not a special privilege the United States grants only to certain countries, and it does not signify approval of a country's policies. It is not a free trade agreement or a preference program. Rather, it is the baseline economic relationship the United States has with virtually every other country in the world—the baseline.

In fact, there are only three countries on Earth that do not have normal trade relations: Cuba, North Korea, and Laos, and Laos is the only one of the three that has full, normal diplomatic relations with the United States.

Laos has worked with the United States closely in accounting for U.S. prisoners of war and missing in action in Laos during the Vietnam war, supported U.S. counterterrorism efforts in Southeast Asia after 9/11, and has cooperated in a long-term bilateral counternarcotics program.

Granting normal trade relations to Laos could have a dramatic effect on improving the dismal economic conditions in that country. Laos has the

lowest life expectancy in Southeast Asia, and the highest fertility rate. It also has the highest adult illiteracy rate, particularly among women.

Cambodia, on the other hand, has created more than 200,000 jobs since the United States granted that country normal trade relations in 1996. My hope is that normal trade relations for Laos will have a similar effect. Granting normal trade relations to Laos will also create opportunities to open the society, improve human rights, improve religious freedom, and improve the rule of law.

That is why my good friend, Senator GRASSLEY, and I have worked hard to pass normal trade relations for Laos, and why it is right to include it in this bill. I think it is time for us to remove an awkward legacy of the Vietnam war and grant normal trade relations to Laos.

This bill includes a long list of provisions that will help American competitiveness. We should bring debate on this bill to a close and pass this constructive measure. I urge my colleagues, therefore, to vote for cloture.

Mr. President, before I turn the floor over to my good friend, the chairman of our committee, I would like to thank several terrific staff members. I thank Everett Eissenstat and Zach Paulsen of the Republican staff who worked very hard to get this miscellaneous tariffs bill passed. Also, from the majority leader's staff, I thank Rohit Kumar and Andy Olson, two extremely able and very helpful people, who helped get these provisions into this bill. I also thank, on my staff, Sara Andrews, who really led the charge. She did a great job, assisted by John Gilliland, who is equally competent. That is an understatement. Both of them are just aces, and I am very proud of them. I thank them for their assistance.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the conference report to H.R. 1047, the Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2004, commonly called the miscellaneous tariff bill.

This legislation has traveled a long and difficult road to get to the floor today. In fact, the journey began over 2½ years ago when Senator BAUCUS chaired the Finance Committee. The Senate historically passes a miscellaneous tariff bill at the end of every Congress. The bill under consideration today was supposed to pass at the end of the 107th Congress. However, it was left as unfinished business for the current Congress. Upon resuming the chairmanship of the Finance Committee, my intention was to complete unfinished business from the 107th Congress as quickly as possible. To that end, we passed the bill out of Committee by voice vote on February 27, 2003.

We hoped that early passage of this bill would pave the way for consider-

ation of another miscellaneous tariff bill in the 108th Congress. But that was not meant to be. Throughout the remainder of the Congress we faced significant delays and stall tactics. In March 2004, over a year after the bill was reported out of the Finance Committee, we reached agreement and passed the bill by unanimous consent. But quick conference consideration was not meant to be. We were forced to wait another 6 months before we could go to conference with the House. The conference committee quickly reached an agreement in October and the House passed the conference report shortly thereafter. However, Senate action was further delayed until today. Happily, it looks like the bill is finally near the end of its journey as we appear to be on the verge of passing this bill as one of the last orders of business for the 108th.

At this point, it might be interesting to reflect on what the Senate Finance Committee has been able to accomplish on trade during the time it took to pass this bill. During the first session of the 108th Congress, we were able to complete work on the Clean Diamond Trade Act, legislation designed to help thwart trade in conflict diamonds. We also implemented two free trade agreements with Chile and Singapore. In addition, we enacted the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, which put in place an import ban on products from Burma in an effort to help stop human rights abuses and the repression of democracy in that country.

During the second session of the 108th Congress, we enacted the Africa Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act, which continues trade preferences for some of the poorest nations in sub-Saharan Africa. We also implemented two trade agreements with Australia and Morocco and brought the United States into compliance with an adverse WTO ruling in the FSC/ETI case through passage of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. There is no doubt that Senate passage of the conference report on the MTB will be a nice capstone to what has already been a highly successful Congress on trade.

This package contains many trade provisions, primarily duty suspensions, reductions and extensions, for products that are not produced domestically. This bill supports American factories and workers by allowing manufacturers to save money when they import these products.

Each of these provisions went through an extensive vetting process including a public notice and comment period to ensure that they did not compete with domestic manufacturers. The bill also contains a number of liquidations or reliquidations for certain entries.

The general rule for inclusion here is that the product entered the country under an incorrect duty rate due to Customs or other administrative error. These provisions allow those entries to enter the country at the correct duty rate.

There are several some other very important provisions in this bill. The bill grants the President the authority to provide permanent normal trade relations, PNTR, for Armenia. Armenia recently joined the World Trade Organization. But, in order to reap the benefits of their accession, the United States needs to extend PNTR to Armenia. This legislation provides the President with the authority to grant that extension. I also hope we will be able to consider similar treatment for Azerbaijan in the very near future.

The bill also extends normal trade relations to Laos. Last year the Bush administration signed a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement with Laos, an agreement that was negotiated during the Clinton years. The agreement will promote U.S. interests by protecting U.S. intellectual property rights and opening the Laotian market to U.S. goods and services. It is a good agreement. But to enable the United States to benefit from it, we must extend normal trade relations to Laos. Doing so will also benefit the Laotian people. Laos is one of the poorest nations in Asia. Yet exports from Laos are subject to some of the highest tariffs when they enter the United States. This agreement will help alleviate poverty, help bring Laos out of the Vietnam War era, and further integrate Laos into the global marketplace.

We also included in this bill a provision that extends preferences under the Generalized System of Preferences, GSP, to allow duty-free treatment for hand-knotted and hand-woven carpets. This provision is designed primarily to help the citizens of Afghanistan and Pakistan. I believe that allowing these products to be considered as eligible articles under GSP will help beneficiary countries that have joined the United States in the fight against global terrorism.

Further, H.R. 1047 corrects a mistake in the Trade Act of 2002 that inadvertently and temporarily raised duties on Andean originating handbags, luggage, flat goods, work gloves and leather wearing apparel under the Andean Trade and Preferences and Drug Eradication Act, ATPDEA. This provision retroactively reinstates the reduced duty treatment for eligible products that entered the U.S. from August 6, 2002, the date ATPDEA was signed, and the time in which these products met the import sensitivity test, several months later. It provides for continued duty-free treatment for these eligible products, which was the intent of the trade act.

I am also pleased that the bill includes the Emergency Protection for Iraqi Cultural Antiquities Act. I introduced the EPIC Antiquities Act to authorize the President to continue emergency import restrictions on the archaeological and ethnological materials of Iraq. The purpose of this bill is simple—to close a legal loophole which could allow looted Iraqi antiquities to be brought into the United States.

If Congress does not act to ensure the continuing means for banning trade in antiquities that may have been stolen, the door could be opened to imports of looted Iraqi antiquities into the United States. Already the press has reported allegations that European auction houses have traded in looted Iraqi antiquities. The last thing that we in Congress want to do is to fail to act to prevent trade in looted Iraqi artifacts here in the United States.

Other important provisions in the bill include modifications to the cellar treatment of natural wine and repeal of the 1916 act. Repeal of the 1916 act will bring the United States into compliance with its WTO obligations. We have also improved and extended the wool trust fund and added a provision that simplifies some processing U.S. Customs processing procedures, thereby resulting in increased efficiency and productivity for both the government and the trade community.

I also want to point out that the provisions I have covered are not the only important provisions contained in this bill. This bill makes a number of other technical yet meaningful changes to our trade laws.

I am very pleased that we are going to be able to pass this bill today. We would not be here today if not for the bipartisan efforts of a number of the Finance Committee staff, some of whom have long left the Senate. First, I want to thank Andy Harig who shepherded this bill through its first stages of development under Chairman BAUCUS' leadership during the 107th Congress. I also want to recognize Carrie Clark Phillips, for immersing herself in the tremendous complexities of this bill and her dedication to seeing the task done upon my resumption as chairman of the committee. Zach Paulsen and Sara Andrews also deserve recognition for their ability to pick up where Carrie and Andy left off and their hard work in bringing this bill to a successful conclusion. I also appreciate the hard work of Rohit Kumar, who was instrumental in helping us move this bill forward. Finally, Liese Wright, with the Washington International Business Council, has done an outstanding job bringing together, and holding intact, the Ad Hoc Coalition on Tariffs. In good times and bad, Liese remained ever hopeful and committed to getting this bill done. Her hard work and optimism is appreciated.

Let me also thank the rest of the Finance Committee international trade staff for their work not just on this bill, but for all we have been able to accomplish this Congress. On Senator BAUCUS's staff I would like to recognize Russ Sullivan and Bill Dauster, who provided the guidance necessary to help the Committee accomplish its goals, and Tim Punke, Brian Pomper, John Gilliland and Shara Aranoff for their technical expertise and policy advice which was so crucial to our success. On my staff, I would like to thank Kolan Davis, Everett Eissenstat, Ste-

phen Schaefer, David Johanson, Tiffany Atwell McCullen, and detailees Nova Daly and Dan Shepherdson. Their knowledge, hard work, and ability to pull together as a team, enabled me to accomplish a number of important trade priorities in this Congress. And for that, I am grateful.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong opposition to efforts to push through a provision in this bill normalizing trade relations with Laos.

Let me first say I thoroughly enjoy my work with both managers of the bill. Senator BAUCUS and I agree on so many issues. We have had our disagreements on trade issues, but I do respect his views and arguments. Of course, I very much respect the Senator from Iowa. I have the pleasure of serving with him on a number of committees. I respectfully disagree with him on this particular aspect of the bill having to do with Laos.

I am deeply disappointed that a decision was made to insert this provision into the Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2004 conference report. The Senator from Montana suggested that those of us who are opposed to this provision simply believe that Laos could do better. I am afraid it is a lot more serious than Laos needing to do a little bit better on human rights.

First, let there be no misunderstanding that this bill would sail through the Senate if this provision on Laos was not included. However, I cannot support upgrading Laos's trading status as long as the human rights situation in that country remains so disturbing. I am not prepared to simply let this bill pass without at least some debate on this important matter.

This is the wrong time to reward the Government of Laos with normal trade relations. Reports emerging from Laos continue to demonstrate that human right conditions in Laos remain appalling. It is not a question of simply doing a little better, it is appalling. Despite the Lao Government's denials, human rights organizations, the U.S. Government, and my constituents and various news agencies have all documented the Lao Government's blatant disregard for human rights.

I have tried to closely monitor the human rights situation in Laos as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs, and also as a Senator representing over 35,000 Hmong people in Wisconsin. Many of these people fled Laos following the end of the Vietnam war. Quite a number of the Hmong provided courageous assistance to the CIA during the Vietnam war, at great risk to themselves and their families. They helped rescue American pilots and hold off North Vietnamese troops.

Especially at a time like this, I think we can all agree that we owe them a

debt of gratitude, and we owe them better than simply rewarding normal trade relations to a government that has badly mistreated them.

The Senator from Montana indicated this provision was an indication that it is time to put the legacy of the Vietnam war behind us. When it comes to the situation on the ground in Laos, the tragic legacy of the Vietnam war is very much alive for families of people who helped us during that very difficult conflict. So the legacy of Vietnam is not over when it comes to the treatment of the Lao Hmong people in Laos.

I am regularly contacted by constituents concerned about their friends and families in Laos. Again and again, my office encounters reports of atrocities committed against the Hmong in Laos and other deplorable practices by the Lao Government. These reports, combined with the Lao Government's absolute refusal to investigate allegations or to permit independent monitoring, lead me to believe it is not in our country's national interest to adopt normal trade relations with the Lao Government.

The United States has an obligation to the Hmong people, and I strongly believe that we have a moral interest in reducing human suffering and protecting human rights abroad. We cannot ignore these allegations of atrocities in Laos. Granting NTR is not appropriate at this time. In fact, I do recognize, as the Senator from Montana pointed out, that there are only a few countries that do not have NTR status. But that does not mean Laos deserves it any more than North Korea or perhaps Cuba. In fact, I have not supported the granting of NTR to some countries that have it now, such as China. In fact, I think the normal trade agreement with China is the biggest reason the State of Wisconsin has lost up to 80,000 manufacturing jobs since the middle of the year 2000.

You can call NTR normal, but, in fact, that was a semantic change from MFN, most-favored-nation treatment. It was a semantic change to try to make it easier to get these deals through. The fact is, normal trade relations with another country is not always right. Sometimes it is in our own interest in terms of protecting our jobs, and sometimes because of the outrageous human rights records that some countries have, and Laos, in my view, is certainly one of those countries.

I know many of my colleagues have provisions in this bill they want passed, and I want the body to know, Mr. President, that I have repeatedly asked that we simply strip out this one contentious provision and pass the rest of the bill, and I am prepared to do that again. I heard the resuscitation of some of the other meritorious aspects of this bill, and I respect that. I am not sure I agree with every piece of the bill, but I do recognize much of it is good. My goal here is not to kill the

whole bill. I simply want this item removed.

At some point, this body has to come to grips with the fact that we tend to shove major policy decisions into larger bills without any real debate and discussion and without the American people having access to what their representatives are doing, thinking, or saying about some of these items. Somehow this has to change.

I also realize the 108th Congress is drawing to a close, and many of us are already looking to head home to our families and constituents. But I cannot, in good conscience, stand by and say nothing against a provision that conflicts so fundamentally with our country's dedication to human rights, to democracy, and to fundamental decency.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing cloture. I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I am deeply troubled by the series of events which have brought us here today. The miscellaneous tariff bill, a relatively noncontroversial bill that has been making its way through the Congress for more than a year now, which is full of worthy noncontroversial provisions, has become the vehicle to pass a bill that is controversial, to say the least.

At the eleventh hour, behind closed doors, the conferees on this bill decided to tack on a bill to grant normal trade relations status to the Communist Laos People's Democratic Republic, one of the few remaining Communist states on the Earth.

For many years, I have worked to shed light on the serious allegations of human rights violations in Laos, many involving the status of the Hmong ethnic minority. By attaching Laos NTR to this bill without any opportunity to debate it and to consider it on its merits, we are missing an important opportunity to hold the Lao Government accountable. We are also missing an important opportunity to press the Lao Government to allow credible international observers into Laos and into the remote jungles where the Hmong ethnic minority live.

We should not be proceeding to this bill in its current form. The Finance Committee could have easily stripped the Laos NTR provisions from the conference report and passed a clean version of the miscellaneous tariff bill. Then we could have had a real debate on Laos NTR at a more appropriate time.

I will have more to say on this matter after the cloture vote. I urge my colleagues to vote against cloture so that Laos NTR can be considered on its merits and not part of an omnibus trade package.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, every year U.S. businesses lose several billion dollars in revenues due to international theft of their products. Every

time a book is photocopied without permission, a bootleg movie DVD is sold, or a piece of music is downloaded from the Internet, engineers, authors, musicians, actors, technicians, camera crews, lighting crews, building owners, investors—indeed, everyone involved in the process—lose money. The United States has long been the world leader in the creation of products protected by intellectual property. Almost every growing industry in the United States uses intellectual property laws as the single most important tool they have to ensure their companies will be viable and competitive in the world marketplace. Millions of employees throughout the United States can directly or indirectly tie their jobs to companies who use intellectual property protections for their products.

Because intellectual property is so important to the U.S. economy, our Government has a long tradition of working hard with the international community to enforce the basic and fair rights established by intellectual property law. Enforcement of these rights in foreign countries is extremely important to the U.S. economy and so the Congress has long provided Government officials with the direction and tools they need to pursue fair treatment of intellectual property on an international basis.

Be it through the Trade Act of 1974 or through the WTO establishment of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, TRIPS Agreement, the U.S. Government has been very active in pursuing the protection of intellectual property that brings me to the bill at hand.

As passed by the Senate on March 4, 2004, H.R. 1047 contained five important measures that would have given the U.S. Government more tools in our effort to protect intellectual property around the world. Specifically, the five intellectual property sections of H.R. 1047 would provide the U.S. Trade Representative additional time to negotiate and consult with countries prior to bringing a World Trade Organization intellectual property dispute; it would have given companies and innovators the ability to request the U.S. Government suspend certain trade benefits to Caribbean and Central American countries who are not meeting their intellectual property commitments; and it would have standardized the criteria for adequate and effective protection of intellectual property under several U.S. trade programs, thereby giving U.S. companies greater ability to protect their IP in several countries around the world.

Unfortunately, during the conference with the House, H.R. 1047 was stripped of four of the five IP protections I just outlined. This is of great concern to me. I fear the House conferees who were opposed to these important IP measures are selling our economy short and jeopardizing thousands of U.S. jobs. Failure to pass these important protections diminishes the U.S.

Government's ability to encourage foreign governments to crack down on intellectual property violations. It is difficult to motivate foreign governments to seek out and prosecute those who steal the property of U.S. companies and sell it to consumers at reduced prices. However, this language would have provided an extra incentive for foreign governments to prosecute intellectual property theft and, hopefully, would have led to billions of dollars of additional U.S. exports across several industries.

Few U.S. industries enjoy a positive trade balance in the world marketplace; however, those few U.S. industries which do enjoy large positive trade balances with other countries depend on strong, internationally enforced intellectual property protections. It is beyond me why anyone would want to make it more difficult for these industries to enforce their property rights internationally. It is beyond me why anyone would want to stand idly by and watch American employees get ripped off by foreign companies.

Although this legislation was stripped of most of the intellectual property protections I worked so hard to include, I am supporting its passage because it provides tariff relief to many industries throughout the country. Many of our Nation's largest manufacturers and employers in industries such as agriculture, textiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, electronics, heavy equipment, and food and beverages all benefit greatly from the reduced tariffs provided by this legislation.

In fact, several large employers in my home State of Utah will benefit directly from this legislation. The reduced tariffs contained in this bill will provide these companies with the ability to compete for effectively in the global marketplace, to sell more products and services throughout the world, and create jobs in Utah. For these important reasons, I will support this legislation.

Although the Senate has not been able to take advantage of this opportunity to pass four very important intellectual property provisions on the Miscellaneous Tariffs Bill, I am hopeful that we can come together at the start of the 109th Congress and take up and pass these important protections. Those industries which depend on IP protections agree that we need them; the U.S. Trade Representative's Office agrees that we need them; and I call on my Senate colleagues to work with me next Congress to pass these important tools to help us combat international IP theft.

I yield the floor.

DUTY SUSPENSIONS FOR IMPORTED PRODUCTS

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to ask my colleague about the conference report to accompany H.R. 1047, the Miscellaneous Trade and