

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me return our attention to the matter at hand, to the issue that is before us.

I want to, first of all, thank our chairman of the committee, Mr. WAXMAN, Chairman WAXMAN, and also the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. WHITFIELD, for their vigorous support of H.R. 5156, the Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act of 2010. I was proud to cosponsor the bill with the author, Congresswoman MATSUI of California, and also with my other cosponsors, Congresswoman ESHOO and our chairman emeritus, JOHN DINGELL.

□ 1150

I want to thank this lady to my left, Congresswoman MATSUI, for her stellar leadership and for taking the lead on this critical issue.

I am asking my colleagues today to vote on this bill, a bill which addresses the challenges that we face in today's economy. My friends on the other side want to bring up a whole lot of other issues. They want to throw a lot of things on the floor. They want to try to baffle us with a lot of their sidebar discussion.

Yet this bill, the bill that is before us today, will help to increase American manufacturers' green products through the establishment of a Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Fund to assist U.S. businesses with exporting clean energy technology, products, and services.

We all, Mr. Speaker, know that America is a prime market for foreign manufacturers. The other side doesn't want to deal with the issues that we are discussing in this bill. Though, I must remind all of us that, far too often, the U.S. market is open to everybody else—open to global manufacturers—but sadly, the converse is not always the case. This is the case, however, for green technology products as our Nation is in a unique position to once again lead on a global scale.

The U.S. manufacturing industry faces serious challenges overseas despite the fact that we are a leader in green technology. As I have said repeatedly, we must seize the energy opportunity that we have today lest we slip further behind to foreign competition. We must seize the time, Mr. Speaker, and now is the time. Now is the time. There is no other time like this time. Now is the time.

We need a strong domestic policy to allow the manufacturing industry to be confident enough to penetrate the international market. Also, it is equally important to strengthen and transform our economy and, in doing so, to further assert our global leadership. The disaster that continues to take place in the Gulf of Mexico in the aftermath of the BP oil spill is a wake-up call. We should not only be a global

leader in offshore technology; we should also be a leader in green and clean technology exports. When I say "clean," Mr. Speaker, I also mean responsible energy technology.

This bill is results-oriented because I have added language that helps us to evaluate the impact of this program on its ability to create jobs, including the gathering of specific information as to the nature, location, and the duration of those jobs, as well as the methodology used by the Secretary to compile such needed and necessary information.

Mr. Speaker, the jabbering and the nattering, let's bring that to a screeching halt on this bill. This is an important bill. This bill has to go forward. It has to go forward for the American people. It has to go forward for the American economy. It has to go forward so that we can once again assert our leadership across the world in the manufacturing sector, the green and clean manufacturing sector.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill and to expand their commitment to significantly increase our exports.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5156, the "Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act of 2010". This legislation, which provides for the establishment of a Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Fund, will go a long way to ensure that American clean energy technology firms possess the information and assistance required to become and remain competitive in the world markets. The bill will also focus our priorities in the energy sector to reduce production costs, encourage innovation, and promote investment and productivity.

Mr. Speaker it is imperative that the U.S. remain a leader in global exports of innovative technology, particularly clean energy. It is no secret that our dependence on foreign oil and other fossil fuel energy sources is too great. The Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act of 2010 will assist us in our efforts to move away from this problematic energy paradigm. It will provide our domestic clean energy firms the means to keep the U.S. ahead of the curve.

This bill directs the Secretary to provide information, tools, and other assistance to U.S. businesses to promote clean energy technology manufacturing and facilitate the export of clean energy technology products and services. It also promotes the implementation of a national clean energy technology export strategy.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a practical means to assist our direction in clean energy technology. For these reasons I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5156.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5156, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY TRADE DEFICIT COMMISSION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1875) to establish an Emergency Commission to End the Trade Deficit, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1875

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has run persistent trade deficits since 1978, and many of such trade deficits since 2000 have been especially large.

(2) There appeared to be some improvements in the United States trade balance in 2009, but this was during a time of global economic crisis, and the reduction in the United States trade deficit appears to be attributable to a shrinking United States demand for imports rather than an increase in United States exports.

(3) Many of the trade deficits are structural—that is, with the same countries, year after year. In 2009, the United States continued to have significant merchandise trade deficits with the People's Republic of China (\$226.8 billion), the European Union (\$60.5 billion), Japan (\$44.7 billion), and Mexico (\$47.5 billion), notwithstanding the overall decline in the United States trade deficit. In fact, in 2009, China accounted for 44 percent of the United States merchandise trade deficit.

(4) While the United States has one of the most open borders and economies in the world, the United States faces significant tariff and non tariff trade barriers with its trading partners.

(5) The causes and consequences of the United States trade deficit must be documented and recommendations must be developed to expeditiously address structural imbalances in the trade deficit.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the Emergency Trade Deficit Commission (in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

(b) MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members, of whom—

(A) three persons shall be appointed by the President, of whom one shall be appointed to represent labor interests, one shall be appointed to represent small businesses, and one shall be appointed to represent manufacturing interests;

(B) two persons shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the Senate, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(C) two persons shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(D) two persons shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(E) two persons shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, after consultation with the ranking

minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS.—

(A) **PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—Of the persons appointed under paragraph (1)(A), not more than one may be an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the executive branch.

(B) **OTHER APPOINTMENTS.**—Persons appointed under subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of paragraph (1) shall be persons who—

(i) have expertise in economics, international trade, manufacturing, labor, environment, or business, or have other pertinent qualifications or experience; and

(ii) are not officers or employees of the United States.

(C) **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.**—In appointing members of the Commission, every effort shall be made to ensure that the members—

(i) are representative of a broad cross-section of economic and trade perspectives within the United States; and

(ii) provide fresh insights to in identifying the causes and consequences of the United States trade deficit and developing recommendations to address structural trade imbalances.

(c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Members shall be appointed not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and the appointment shall be for the life of the Commission.

(2) **VACANCIES.**—Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(d) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(e) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(f) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—The members of the Commission shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

(g) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(h) **VOTING.**—Each member of the Commission shall be entitled to one vote, which shall be equal to the vote of every other member of the Commission.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall be responsible for examining the nature, causes, and consequences of the United States trade deficit and providing recommendations on how to address and reduce structural trade imbalances, including with respect to the United States merchandise trade deficit, in order to promote sustainable economic growth that provides broad-based income and employment gains.

(b) **CAUSES OF U.S. TRADE DEFICIT.**—In examining the causes of the United States trade deficit, the Commission shall, among other things—

(1) identify and assess the impact of macroeconomic factors, including currency practices, foreign government purchases of United States assets, and savings and investment rates, including savings rates of foreign state-owned enterprises, on United States bilateral trade imbalances and global trade imbalances;

(2) with respect to countries with which the United States has significant, persistent sectoral or bilateral trade deficits, assess with respect to the magnitude and composition of such trade deficits—

(A) the impact of tariff and non tariff barriers maintained by such countries and the lack of reciprocal market access as a result of such barriers;

(B) the impact of investment, offset, and technology transfer requirements by such countries;

(C) any impact due to the failure of such countries to adhere to internationally-recognized labor standards, including the extent to which such failure affects conditions of competition with the United States or the ability of consumers in such countries to buy United States goods and services;

(D) any impact due to differences in levels of environmental protection and enforcement of environmental laws between such countries and the United States, including the extent to which such differences affect conditions of competition with the United States;

(E) policies maintained by such countries that assist manufacturers in such countries, including the impact of such policies on manufacturers in the United States; and

(F) the impact of border tax adjustments by such countries;

(3) examine the impact of free trade agreements on the United States trade deficit;

(4) examine the impact of investment flows both into and out of the United States on the trade deficit, including—

(A) the impact of United States outbound investment on the United States trade deficit and on standards of living and production in the United States;

(B) the impact that the relocation of production facilities overseas has on the United States trade deficit, including by reviewing major domestic plant closures over an appropriate representative period to determine how much production terminated from such closures was relocated offshore;

(C) the impact of foreign direct investment in the United States on the United States trade deficit and on standards of living and production in the United States; and

(D) the impact of United States bilateral investment treaties, including bilateral investment treaties under negotiation, on the United States trade deficit;

(5) examine the role and impact of imports of oil and other energy products on the United States trade deficit; and

(6) assess the extent to which United States foreign policy interests influence United States economic and trade policies.

(c) **CONSEQUENCES OF U.S. TRADE DEFICIT.**—In examining the consequences of the United States trade deficit, the Commission shall, among other things—

(1) identify and, to the extent practicable, quantify the impact of the trade deficit on the overall domestic economy, and, with respect to different sectors of the economy, on manufacturing capacity, on the number and quality of jobs, on wages, and on health, safety, and environmental standards;

(2) assess the effects the trade deficits in the areas of manufacturing and technology have on defense production and innovation capabilities of the United States; and

(3) assess the impact of significant, persistent trade deficits, including sectoral and bilateral trade deficits, on United States economic growth.

(d) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—In making recommendations, the Commission shall, among other things—

(1) identify specific strategies for achieving improved trade balances with those countries with which the United States has significant, persistent sectoral or bilateral trade deficits;

(2) identify United States trade policy tools including enforcement mechanisms that can be more effectively used to address the underlying causes of structural trade deficits;

(3) identify domestic and trade policies that can enhance the competitiveness of United States manufacturers domestically

and globally, including those policies of the United States and other countries that have been successful in promoting competitiveness;

(4) address ways to improve the coordination and accountability of Federal departments and agencies relating to trade; and

(5) examine ways to improve the adequacy of the collection and reporting of trade data, including identifying and developing additional databases and economic measurements that may be needed to properly assess the causes and consequences of the United States trade deficit.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 16 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the President and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report that contains—

(1) the findings and conclusions of the Commission described in section 3; and

(2) any recommendations for administrative and legislative actions as the Commission considers necessary.

(b) **SEPARATE VIEWS.**—Any member of the Commission may submit additional findings and recommendations as part of the report.

SEC. 5. POWERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) **HEARINGS.**—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this Act. The Commission shall hold at least seven public hearings, one or more in Washington, D.C., and four in different regions of the United States.

(b) **INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(c) **POSTAL SERVICES.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal departments and agencies.

SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—Each member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(b) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of duties of the Commission.

(c) **STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(e) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; GAO AUDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 to the Commission to carry out this Act.

(b) GAO AUDIT.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the Commission terminates, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete an audit of the financial books and records of the Commission and shall submit a report on the audit to the President and the Congress.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.

The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under section 4(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support H.R. 1875, a bill to establish an Emergency Trade Deficit Commission. This commission will examine the causes and the consequences of the United States' persistent and substantial trade deficits, and it will provide recommendations on how to address and reduce those deficits.

Over the past 10 years, our trade deficits have been unprecedented. Before 2000, our largest trade deficit was in 1987 when the deficit was equal to 3.3 percent of GDP, but that 1987 deficit pales in comparison to the deficits we have had every year from 2000 through 2008. Indeed, in 2006, our trade deficit represented 6.4 percent of GDP, nearly twice as high as in 1987.

These enormous trade deficits are corrosive. They lower our GDP. They weaken our economic growth. It is no

surprise that global imbalances and, in particular, huge U.S. trade deficits have contributed to the global economic crisis that we are slowly recovering from. Our trade deficits are improving now, but this appears to be largely due to a still weak economic recovery, not to any structural policy change, and many economists are warning that massive global imbalances will return unless we take corrective action.

Our recent trade deficits are due, in part, to a passive, hands-off approach to trade in the past. Proponents of this flawed approach mistakenly believed that our trade deficits would resolve themselves. Ignoring their effect on U.S. manufacturers, they claim that the mercantilistic practices of China and of some of our trade partners may be okay for the U.S. because they result in cheaper imports for our consumers. This is not a trade policy; this is a recipe for economic failure.

As our President has said: Trade is going to be reciprocal. It is not just going to be a one-way street.

Those words have been backed up by strong action, such as the China safeguard action the administration took last year.

To be sure, there are many causes of our trade deficits, many causes which are not directly related to trade or to industrial policy. The fiscal deficits we amassed over the past decade certainly played a signature role, for example, and we need to confront those issues as well. Trade can contribute substantially to the strength of our economy, but it has to be reciprocal. It has to be two-way trade.

I believe that the work of the Emergency Trade Deficit Commission can help us determine how best to achieve two-way trade. It can help us expand and shape trade to ensure that it is working for working Americans. It can help us make a thing of the past these corrosive trade deficits that weaken our economy and hurt our workers and the manufacturers which employ them.

I, therefore, urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, at this point I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky, who is focused on creating manufacturing jobs through open markets, Congressman DAVIS.

□ 1200

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased that we're having this debate today about the importance of trade for America's manufacturing sector. Given my extensive experience in manufacturing, I'm pleased to provide my firsthand familiarity with what makes business successful and what creates jobs.

My own experience tells me that international trade is vital to the success of America's manufacturing sec-

tor. In my home State of Kentucky, nearly 50,000 manufacturing jobs are dependent on exports. The simple fact is that 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside the United States, and the fastest growing markets are outside our borders. So success in those markets is critical to growing our manufacturing sector and creating good paying jobs.

As the President has noted, America's exports of manufactured goods support one out of every five manufacturing jobs, and those jobs pay 15 percent more than average. We simply must increase exports, and that's the key to any debate about the trade deficit.

If we're going to be successful in growing U.S. exports and reducing the deficit, we need to identify the best practices for doing so. We have real world results that we can use to identify these best practices, and these facts show clearly that there has been no more effective way to reduce the trade deficit and create U.S. jobs than negotiating new trade agreements to open foreign markets to U.S. exports.

The benefits of CAFTA to the United States manufacturing sectors and workers are clear. Because of this agreement, we swung a negative trade balance, a trade deficit in manufactured goods of \$1.1 billion, to a trade surplus of \$1.9 billion, and we already have a surplus of \$1.3 billion so far this year.

Madam Speaker, in the manufacturing world, we'd never base our best practices on just one successful outcome. Fortunately, the success of the Central America Free Trade Agreement is not the only example we have. The United States has implemented trade agreements with eight other countries under the Trade Promotion Authority. In 2009, the U.S. had an overall trade surplus of over \$27 billion with these eight countries, and so far in 2010, we have a surplus of over \$14 billion.

And the results for the American manufacturing sector are even stronger. In 2009, the United States had a trade surplus of over \$29 billion with these countries, and in 2010, \$16 billion. This is a track record that firmly establishes the aggressive pursuit of trade agreements as the best practice for increasing U.S. exports and lowering the trade deficit.

Given the ambitious track record of success of our trade agreements, I don't think we need another government commission. However, I understand that for some, the facts I've cited aren't enough and, therefore, I do rise in support of this bill.

I want to help those with doubts about the benefits of trade agreements to see how vital they are to the success of American manufacturing, so I'll support this legislation in an effort to educate others on these benefits, the benefits of well-executed, bilateral, and free trade agreements properly structured between the partners.

I fully expect the commission will reach the same conclusion that I and many others on both sides of the aisle have already reached. However, I'm concerned that we can't simply wait for the commission to do its analysis.

As the President has noted, other countries are racing ahead of us in negotiating agreements that benefit their workers while we sit on the sidelines. That's why I strongly support the President's call to resolve the outstanding issues around the U.S.-South Korea trade agreement.

My colleagues and I on this side of the aisle stand ready to work with the President to implement these best practices and prepare not only the South Korea agreement for congressional approval, but to prepare the agreements with Colombia and Panama as well. I'm confident these agreements will be just as successful for American workers in the U.S. manufacturing sector as our prior agreements.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCARELL), our distinguished colleague, a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PASCARELL. Madam Speaker, I want to agree with the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS), but there's a catch here. In the last 6 months, we have gained 136,000 manufacturing jobs, private jobs. It's one of the few pluses that we can refer to. So there is hope for the future in terms of manufacturing if we do the right thing.

I rise in support of H.R. 1875, the End the Trade Deficit Act, and I want to thank my friend from Oregon for introducing this important legislation. All through the years, Mr. DEFAZIO continues to speak out over the din and over the years for the American consumer and for fair trade policies. I salute you.

The United States has run a persistent trade deficit with the world since 1978, including structural deficits with several major trading partners year after year. This includes a \$220 billion trade deficit with China alone.

In 2001, just think of it, 9 years ago, China was granted admission to the World Trade Organization, that number was \$84 billion. It's increased in 9 years by \$136 billion. One study by the Economic Policy Institute estimates that the dramatic increase in our trade deficit with China alone has cost this country 2.4 million jobs.

The American people, the middle class, know that our trade policy has not worked for them. They see it in their everyday lives. My hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, I still live there. We close factories. We reopen them south of the border or overseas. Why haven't we stopped the hemorrhaging of jobs to places offshore?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCARELL. We cannot continue down this path. Our trade deficit is unsustainable. We must begin to tackle it if we want to create jobs here in the United States and remain a prosperous country in the future.

There's no silver bullet out there that will balance the books, which is why a comprehensive study of the problem and recommendations for policy solutions, which is proscribed in this legislation specifically, is very necessary.

The commission will look at many of the tactics we know our trading partners use in order to place their exports at an advantage and in order that they have played and gamed the system to our disadvantage:

Foreign currency manipulation, we've addressed it in some esoteric statements now and then. But we know what China is doing, and it hurts us in terms of what the Americas are trying to do.

Tariff and nontariff barriers, just mentioned before in the previous legislation by the gentleman from Illinois.

Foreign subsidization of manufacturing, other countries have different taxing methodologies than we do. They subsidize their industries. How can our industries compete against that unless we address that particular issue, which we're afraid to do. Both sides of the aisle are afraid to address the real issues on trade and the weak environmental and labor standards.

I'm pleased the commission will include the impact of border tax adjustments on our trade deficit, which penalized our exporters by an average of 15.2 percent and are currently totally legal under current global trade agreements.

We will not deal with the imbalance in our trade agreements unless we understand how countries have gamed the system to hurt our workers, and that's why we continue to offshore these jobs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PASCARELL. At the end of the day, the United States is the most open, accessible, and dynamic market in the world. We hold our trading partners, hopefully, to the same standard. We must tackle our trade deficit head-on so that United States businesses and families can continue to prosper in the years to come.

I urge passage of this legislation. I eagerly await the report of the commission.

□ 1210

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman who is the top Republican on the Oversight Committee on Ways and Means and has focused both on ending the drilling moratorium that is killing U.S. jobs in the gulf, and also opening new markets for our American manufacturers, services, and ag community,

the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. BOUSTANY.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank the ranking member on the Trade Subcommittee, Mr. BRADY from Texas, for yielding time to me.

I think it's important to recognize, and I agree with the gentleman who just spoke, Mr. PASCARELL, that the United States has the most vibrant, open market in the entire world, and we need to take advantage of our leadership position. The U.S. has led globally since 1945 in setting the standards for open trade.

Trade agreements give access to American workers and businesses to other markets for U.S. services and products. Let's face it, 95 percent of the consumers of the world are outside of the borders of the United States. So our trade agreements create U.S. jobs.

Despite having the trade deficit that we've talked about, the U.S. trade balance with 13 countries that we have free trade agreements implemented through Trade Promotion Authority has really improved our export capacity by 476 percent between 2001 and 2009, creating a trade surplus with those respective countries of over \$25 billion.

Case by case we can look at these: CAFTA—DR, Chile, Morocco, Singapore, Australia. These trade agreements actually exceeded actual export growth estimates initially put forth by the International Trade Commission. The U.S. had a trade surplus with each of these countries, enhancing the competitiveness of U.S. workers and businesses.

The failure to implement an aggressive trade strategy that focuses on exports puts the U.S. at extreme risk of falling behind competitively. We know that China's embarking on a very aggressive trade policy globally. Other countries, Brazil. We have a very multipolar world today with very aggressive trade policies working against us, and our country has really been on the sidelines for the last year-and-a-half in trade. This failure threatens U.S. credibility globally. Frankly, it threatens the U.S. credibility. And it's also a threat to the historic U.S. leadership role that we have set in setting open standards for global trade.

Now, I believe that this new commission really is unnecessary. I am going to support it if it's the only way we can jump-start something on trade, but I really do think it's unnecessary. And if you go back and look at the historic role that the Ways and Means Committee has played in implementing an open trade policy, a trade policy that benefits U.S. businesses and U.S. workers, it goes all the way back into the twenties, and possibly even before that.

I remember reading about Cordell Hull as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, a Democrat who espoused open trade, and then went on to become Secretary of State and continued to espouse open trade. Our committee, the Ways and Means

Committee, has an illustrious history in doing this, and I believe that's where the leadership should come from.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we can work together in trying to implement in working with this current administration to come up with a really good, solid trade strategy that really promotes U.S. competitiveness. That's where I believe the authority should lie.

I believe it's pretty clear what we need to do. We ought to implement the three pending free trade agreements: South Korea, Panama, and Colombia. Let's move forward on these. These will immediately help enhance exports and create U.S. jobs. They already have access to our market. We need access to those markets. In the hearing just yesterday, Stu Eizenstat, who served in the Clinton administration, talked about these being no-cost stimulus, no-cost job creation mechanisms.

I also believe, in addition to implementing a very aggressive trade strategy that focuses on U.S. exports not just for large corporations but small and mid-sized companies as well, where we can really enhance our export capacity, we also need to take a look at the other things holding us back on U.S. competitiveness.

We need to lower the corporate rate. If we lower the corporate tax rate, this will enhance U.S. competitiveness. And we also need to back away from some of these proposals in international tax that are hurting U.S. competitiveness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. BOUSTANY. If we lower our corporate tax rate at least down to OECD averages, that will enhance U.S. competitiveness. And we do have a different tax system than other countries utilize that I think actually hurts our competitiveness. But if we actually take steps such as what the administration has proposed in its current budget in the international tax treatment of U.S. companies, we're actually going to hurt U.S. job growth, we're going to hurt exports, and we're going to hurt U.S. competitiveness. So I think it's imperative that we take a look at this. And our committee, the Ways and Means Committee, should take the lead in this issue as well.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my distinct pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the author of this legislation, the active, distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the chairman.

It's interesting to hear some Republicans on the other side of the aisle say this commission isn't necessary. We are going to run a \$700 billion trade deficit this year. That means we will borrow, predominantly from China, Japan, and a few other countries, \$700 billion to buy things that we used to make in America. And it's not a level playing field. We get played for a sucker in these trade deals.

We need a new, strong trade policy. Yes, American workers can compete, but not on an unfair, tilted playing field, which is what they're being asked to do today. I will give a couple of examples. When we were doing MFN permanently for China, which I voted against because we lost that annual leverage with them, wheat guys from Oregon came in, and they said, Congressman, right now a ship is going into China. Imagine what it's going to mean for our markets. They're finally accepting our wheat. This new trade deal's going to be great.

I said, Well, actually, I have got translated broadcasts of their agriculture minister that say that they're not going to allow that, and they're not going to become dependent upon imported food. They said, Oh, no, you are wrong. So, yeah, that one ship got in.

Congress voted the deal, China was permanently off the hook to be reviewed for unfair trade practices by the Congress, and, guess what, that was the last ship. They came in the next year kind of hanging their heads and said, You were right. Are you going to say it? I said, No. I am going to say, what are we going to do now? And talked about fighting back against these unfair trade practices.

We can look at just after the first President Bush signed the deal with Canada that was supposed to deal with their unfair subsidies and dumping of cheap lumber into the U.S. But before the ink was even dry on the deal, Canada reclassified much of their lumber to salvage. They basically started giving away their trees on the stump instead of making companies buy them and provided subsidized transportation and other things and again flooded the U.S. market. We're still fighting with the Canadians 17 years later over their subsidized lumber, and we've still lost thousands of jobs.

Yeah, there was a little bit of cheaper lumber available here; but when you lose the jobs for working-class Americans, middle class American families, our consumers, when they lose their jobs, it doesn't matter if a house is maybe \$300 or \$400 cheaper. They can't afford the house. So we need a level playing field.

We need to identify these barriers that are being put up by the Chinese and others. The Chinese are going to run more than a quarter of a trillion dollar trade surplus with the U.S. this year. They recently passed a law saying they're going to have a huge renewable program in China. And the law says that nobody can buy a renewable windmill or photovoltaic or anything else if it wasn't manufactured in China by a Chinese company.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield an additional 2 minutes to the author of the bill.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman.

So the Chinese have passed a law saying that no one in China can buy a

U.S.-made windmill or photovoltaic. If we get these green jobs and green industry going that the President wants, the Chinese aren't going to buy them. But guess what? The so-called stimulus bill that passed this Congress, part of those funds, our taxpayer dollars, money we borrowed in part from China to finance that bill, were used to buy windmills made in China. They can get their windmills in here like that.

There's a company proposing to assemble photovoltaics in my hometown of Eugene, Oregon. But I also have people in Oregon trying to keep their companies going with made in America photovoltaics. But they are having trouble competing with the subsidized cheap junk from China because their photovoltaics are not very good. Again, we can't send our ours there, but they can send theirs here without any constraints.

I remember back to Lee Iacocca, back when we used to sort of laugh at the Japanese cars. And when he had minivans and the Japanese started producing minivans, he said, You know, I produce a minivan for \$16,000. I send it to Japan, it sits on the dock for 6 months while a series of inspectors come down and look at it. And then finally when it gets to the showroom, it costs \$30,000 and it's been there 6 months. He said the Japanese take their minivan, it costs \$17,000 to make it—they were less efficient then—he said they put it on a ship, it gets to Portland, they roll it off, it's in the showroom the next day. Do we ever reciprocate?

We say, okay, if you are going to keep our cars on your docks for 6 months, how about we're going to keep your cars on our docks for 6 months? And that's what the trade commission will point to. It will point to the unfair trade barriers, these whole series of different phytosanitary, or actually safety inspections, or currency manipulation, all of the things that China and other countries are doing to steal our jobs and kill off our industries. This commission can point to those things, they can emphasize them, and they can propose ways that we can deal with it more meaningfully in trade agreements in the future.

I recommend to my colleagues, help end the trade deficit. Vote for this legislation.

□ 1220

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the former top Republican on the Trade Subcommittee, the gentleman from California who's focused on creating jobs through selling more California and United States products and services, Mr. HERGER.

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I find it ironic that we are here today creating one more commission to study a problem and report back with possible solutions some time in the future when we could be taking action right now today that would reduce our trade deficit and make a real difference for American workers.

One of the findings in this bill states the problem very clearly: "While the United States has one of the most open economies in the world, the United States faces significant tariff and non-tariff trade barriers with its trading partners."

For example, over 90 percent of Panamanian and Colombian exports enter the U.S. duty free. Additionally, the average Korean tariff for U.S. exporters is more than four times the average tariff that Korean products face in the United States market.

We could slash these high tariffs on U.S. exports and level the playing field for American workers by passing the current pending Free Trade Agreements with these three nations.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue the bipartisan tradition since World War II of supporting trade and call for passage of the pending FTAs with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. If we really want to create jobs, pass these trade agreements. If we want to increase exports, pass these trade agreements. If we want to reduce the trade deficit, pass these trade agreements. We don't need another commission; we need action.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, addressing some earlier comments, many Democrats, including Chairman LEVIN, supported bringing China into the World Trade Organization to force them to play by the rules. And since we've done that, when they have violated those rules, the United States has prevailed in seven of the eight complaints we have brought to that organization. So it is helping keep China in line so we have a level playing field.

Also, if you've picked up the paper in the last week, you've noticed that while auto sales in the United States for our auto manufacturers has remained flat, its sales are growing overseas, and its profits are growing because they're allowed to sell American automobiles around the world. That's good for the U.S. auto workers in the United States.

I appreciate the chairman bringing this legislation together. I know it is well-intended. It's important to tackle America's trade deficit the right way. And I think everyone understands another government commission alone is no substitute for new customers for American workers, farmers, and manufacturers.

The best way to strengthen the trade deficit while strengthening America's economy is to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and open the world to more U.S. products and services. I know if my Democrat friends and those in the White House are serious about reducing the trade deficit, we are eager to work with them by starting to take up and passing the pending trade agreements with South Korea, Panama, and Colombia.

I rise in support of this bill because I think that any objective and honest commission will find that creating new markets and new customers for American exports will reduce our trade deficit, will create jobs, and stimulate our economy.

I think it's absolutely appropriate that Congress is considering this legislation today of all days. Today is the fifth anniversary of House passage of the U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement, which gives us an opportunity to look at real results. Those results clearly show how trade agreements increase U.S. sales and reduce trade deficits. As you know, America is a very open market. Countries sell into the United States. But when we try to sell our products, too often we find that "America need not apply" sign.

Trade agreements tear that sign down and give us a chance not one-way trade in, but two-way trade where we have a level playing field. The world has changed. It's not enough to simply buy American. We have to sell American. We have to sell our products and goods and services throughout this world. In fact, over 80 percent of our trade deficit today is with countries that are not trade agreement partners, that are not level playing fields for the United States. That's why we push hard for those agreements.

For example, 5 years ago the United States had a \$1.2 billion trade deficit with Central America. Last year, the United States had turned that around, because of the agreement, to a \$1.2 billion trade surplus, and we're on track to surpass that surplus again this year. Last year, the United States had a trade surplus in manufactured goods with our Central American partners of almost \$2 billion. We're on track again this year.

Nor is CAFTA the only example of how trade agreements can improve the U.S. trade balance. This week also marks the eighth anniversary of the final House vote on the Trade Act of 2002, under which we have resoundingly successful trade agreements with 13 countries now in force. Last year, the United States had a trade surplus of over \$25 billion with these 13 countries. And so far this year, we have a surplus again.

Looking at just trade in manufactured goods reveals that these agreements were even better for American manufacturing workers. Last year, the United States had a trade surplus of over \$29 billion in manufactured products with these countries that we have free trade agreements. And again, we have this year a surplus already of nearly \$16 billion. Without question, these trade agreements have reduced U.S. trade deficits and increased U.S. trade surpluses.

The three pending agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea would have the same results by leveling the playing field for our American workers.

Madam Speaker, there is one sector in which the United States runs a

structural trade deficit, that is energy, and I appreciate the chairman including this in the commission. Last year, our deficit in energy products accounted for almost half of the trade deficit.

So our trade deficit isn't principally in goods—it's in oil, it's in energy. That's what the American people want to change. We can take an enormous step toward reducing our trade deficit simply by increasing American-made energy. Unfortunately, many Democrats in Congress have taken just about every step they can to reduce American-made energy production.

First, House Democrats rushed through the House a massive national energy tax that would cripple the U.S. energy sector. Now, the White House has defied the courts and has imposed a moratorium on offshore drilling that damages jobs and damages U.S. energy production. The impact of that moratorium would be to increase the deficit because it will result in more imports of foreign oil. This moratorium also means fewer manufacturing jobs.

In fact, last week a recent analysis by IHS Global Insight found the drilling moratorium in the gulf would result in over 300,000 jobs lost along the gulf and over \$147 billion in lost State, local, and Federal tax revenue. It is a terrible blow to American jobs.

If the sponsors of this legislation are serious—and I believe they are—about reducing the trade deficit and working together to create manufacturing jobs, let's focus on negotiating more trade agreements to open foreign markets to our U.S. sales and promoting U.S. energy production. We don't need a new government commission to accomplish either of these.

□ 1230

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Now, that the distinguished ranking member on the Trade Subcommittee has yielded back the balance of his time, I will close.

First of all, I want to thank Mr. DEFAZIO for introducing the bill and for his willingness and his really effective efforts to work with us. His staff also collaborated in bringing this bill to the floor. I also want to thank Congressman CAMP and Congressman BRADY and their staff for working with us.

So let me just say a word. We'll debate trade issues another time. I think everybody here has spoken about the importance of two-way trade and ending the one-way street. The problem with the Korea agreement, as it was negotiated, was that when it comes to the industrial sector, there was no way it was even close to a likelihood that there would be two-way trade in vital industrial sectors. So far it's only been one way, and now steps have to be taken with the other provisions in the bill to make sure there's two-way trade in industrial, as well as agricultural, goods as well as opening up their markets to service products.

I think we're now finished with this. We can discuss the moratorium on drilling some other day, and I now urge passage of this bill.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 1875, the End the Trade Deficit Act. I wish to commend my colleague, Congressman DEFAZIO of Oregon for his fine work on this bill.

At a time of nascent national economic recovery, we have the opportunity to right the policy failures of the past. This is particularly important with respect to trade. I have long criticized the NAFTA trade agreement model for its detrimental effect on this country's manufacturing base. Indeed, with the implementation of NAFTA and CAFTA, we have witnessed the off-shoring of millions of good-paying American jobs.

In light of this, H.R. 1875 will direct establishment of a commission to develop a trade policy plan that will eliminate the U.S. merchandise trade deficit and develop a competitive trade policy for the 21st century. I am particularly pleased that this report, which will include recommendations for administrative and legislative actions to reduce this deficit, must be submitted to the Congress and the President prior to the President's submitting any free trade agreement to the House and Senate for approval.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1875 will substitute measured concern in place of rash trade policy. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill and in so doing, help this country achieve sustainable economic recovery.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1875, the End the Trade Deficit Act of 2009.

Since coming to Congress, I have worked to level the playing field of international trade, stop the illegal trade practices of other countries, notably China, and support American workers. The first step in achieving these goals must be addressing our \$375 billion trade deficit with other countries. While this deficit is down from the \$753 billion deficit we had in 2006, as the global economy recovers, this deficit has increased by billions of dollars each month, and our deficit with China stands at a staggering \$226 billion. In addition, the U.S. has lost 3,178,000 manufacturing jobs since 1998 and the recession has aggravated this damaging trend.

The Trade Deficit Review Commission established by H.R. 1875 will take positive steps to address the trade deficit by developing a new, competitive trade policy that emphasizes fair trade and U.S. jobs. Our trade policy must promote the export of U.S.-made goods to foreign markets and support our workers rather than aiding the multi-national corporations who seek weaker labor, safety, and environmental requirements overseas.

I have consistently opposed free trade agreements—including NAFTA and DR-CAFTA—because I believe they have driven good-paying American jobs out of the country. H.R. 1875 is needed to reverse these damaging trade agreements and takes a positive step forward to revitalize manufacturing in the U.S. and create jobs here at home.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1875, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to establish the Emergency Trade Deficit Commission."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1481) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Save for Retirement Week", including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles and increasing personal financial literacy.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1481

Whereas people in the United States are living longer, and the cost of retirement is increasing significantly;

Whereas Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;

Whereas recent data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicates that, in the United States, less than 2/3 of workers or their spouses are currently saving for retirement and that the actual amount of retirement savings of workers lags far behind the amount that will be needed to adequately fund their retirement years;

Whereas financial literacy is an important factor in United States workers' understanding of the true need to save for retirement;

Whereas saving for one's retirement is a key component to overall financial health and security during retirement years, and the importance of financial literacy in planning one's retirement must be advocated;

Whereas many workers may not be aware of their options for saving for retirement or may not have focused on the importance of, and need for, saving for their own retirement;

Whereas many employees have available to them through their employers access to defined benefit and defined contribution plans to assist them in preparing for retirement, yet many of them may not be taking advantage of such plans at all or to the full extent allowed by such plans as prescribed by Federal law;

Whereas the need to save for retirement is important even during economic downturns or market declines, making continued contributions all the more important;

Whereas all workers, including public- and private-sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from increased awareness of the need to develop personal budgets and financial plans including retirement savings strategies and to take advantage of the availability of tax-preferred savings vehicles to assist them in saving for retirement; and

Whereas October 17 through October 23, 2010, has been designated as "National Save for Retirement Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Save for Retirement Week", including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles as important tools for personal savings and retirement financial security;

(2) supports the need to raise public awareness of the availability of a variety of ways to save for retirement which are favored under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and are utilized by many Americans but which should be utilized by more;

(3) supports the need to raise public awareness of the importance of saving adequately for retirement, and the continued existence of tax preferred employer-sponsored retirement savings vehicles; and

(4) calls on the States, localities, schools, universities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing retirement savings for all the people of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I rise in support of the National Save For Retirement Week resolution that I have sponsored with my friend and colleague, Representative SAM JOHNSON. He and I have championed this proposal, which has passed the House of Representatives in each of the last 3 years.

Saving for one's retirement is of paramount importance. Less than two-thirds of workers are saving for retirement and those who are saving are not saving enough to adequately fund their retirement. As a result, too many Americans rely solely on Social Security to fund their retirements. Social Security is the bedrock of retirement security and retirement income for many Americans. However, on average, Social Security retirees today receive \$14,000 a year, hardly adequate as the sole source of retirement income for most Americans.

This resolution will help raise public awareness of the importance of saving for retirement and encourage greater personal financial responsibility. Congress and employers can encourage saving for retirement through information on long-term saving vehicles and payroll deduction options that currently exist for most American workers.