

This mechanism is not necessary for a pact between two countries with well-established rules of law. We didn't do that in the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement. It did not include these investor-state provisions. Why would we do it now with Korea, which is also a country that operates under a rule of law?

One more reason this Korea Free Trade Agreement undermines our sovereignty, weakens our environmental laws, weakens our food safety laws, and dilutes what we stand for in the American values we hold so dear is about jobs, and it is about these investor-state provisions which undermine our sovereignty.

Before pursuing more of the same style of trade agreements that caused our trade deficit to balloon to more than \$600 billion, why not focus on enforcing existing trade laws? We know some things we ought to be doing before we look at passing new trade agreements. We need to better enforce trade laws. We have done that.

President Obama, to his credit—and again, I don't agree with him on these trade agreements. I think he is wrong. But to his credit, more than any President I think in at least 25 years, President Obama has begun to enforce some trade rules. He enforced on oil country tubular steel. His decision created hundreds of jobs in Youngstown and Lorain, OH. His decision on Chinese tires created hundreds of jobs in Findlay, OH, and other places around the State in tire-building. His and the Commerce Department's decision on the Chinese gaming the system on coated paper, an industry that still exists in this country—not what it used to be, but it meant jobs in southwest Ohio and all over my State and all over States where paper is still manufactured in this country.

Another thing we should do before a new trade agreement is we should consider reintroducing Super 301 so that we have the tools to fight back when countries such as China game the system.

I am working with the Republican Senator from Ohio, the Republican Senator from Missouri, the Democratic Senator from Missouri, and the Democratic Senator from Oregon, Chairman WYDEN of the Finance Committee's subcommittee, to begin to enforce customs duties and make sure companies in countries that evade these customs duties can no longer evade them. That will make a huge difference in job creation.

Those are the kinds of things we should be doing.

Paul Krugman, who has been a free-trader most of his life, a columnist for the New York Times, back in December said:

If you want a trade policy that helps employment, it has to be a policy that induces other countries to run bigger deficits or smaller surpluses. A countervailing duty of Chinese exporting would be job creating here; a deal with South Korea, not.

This comes from a Nobel Prize-winning economist, somebody who has in the past been supportive of these free-trade agreements, believing that they have created jobs. He realizes Korea won't create jobs. Beginning to enforce our trade laws is the way to go.

I will close with this. Some years ago, President Bush said that for every billion-dollar trade surplus or every billion-dollar trade deficit a country has, it translates into 13,000 jobs. In other words, if we have a trade deficit with China of \$1 billion, that would mean we are selling to them \$1 billion less than we are buying from them, and the manufacture of those products we buy versus the ones we manufacture and sell is a net loss to the United States of 13,000 jobs. So for every \$1 billion trade surplus or trade deficit, it translates into 13,000 jobs for that country.

The trade deficit with China last year was \$273 billion. The trade deficit we have with the entire world, the so-called multilateral trade deficit, was \$634 billion.

Mr. President, travel my State. Travel this country. See the kinds of manufacturing job loss we have had. We have lost manufacturing jobs from 1998, the last 2 years of the Clinton administration, all 8 years of the Bush administration, and the first year and a half of the Obama administration. We were losing manufacturing jobs through that whole process. Now we are starting to gain manufacturing jobs, but we can't continue to gain manufacturing jobs when we pass free-trade agreements that clearly cause more companies to shut down in our country and more of those companies to move abroad.

The Korea Free Trade Agreement is a bad idea. It is imperative that we do what the President has said we should do and what so many of my colleagues have asked us to do; that is, pass trade adjustment assistance with a health coverage tax credit for those workers who have already lost jobs from trade agreements and from trade policy. It is the right thing to do. It is good for our country, it is good for our economy, and it is especially good for workers.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 6:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOOD SAFETY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in April, the Senate unanimously passed the Food Safety Accountability Act. If enacted, this important bill will hold criminals who poison our food supply

accountable for their crimes. Now more than ever, it is critical that the House pass this noncontroversial legislation.

A recent *E. coli* outbreak in Germany—identified by scientists as a new, deadly strain of the bacteria—has killed at least 35 people and spread to 10 countries. Thankfully, this particular outbreak has not yet hit the United States, but this tragedy, on the heels of several major outbreaks in the United States in recent years, highlights the importance of ensuring that we take every step to protect our food supply. The Food Safety Accountability Act promotes more accountability for food suppliers by increasing the sentences that prosecutors can seek for people who violate our food safety laws in those cases where there is conscious or reckless disregard of a risk of death or serious bodily injury.

Current statutes do not provide sufficient criminal sanctions for those who knowingly violate our food safety laws. Knowingly distributing adulterated food is already illegal, but it is in most cases merely a misdemeanor right now, and the Sentencing Commission has found that it generally does not result in jail time. The fines and recalls that usually result from criminal violations under current law fall short in protecting the public from harmful products. Too often, those who are willing to endanger our American citizens in pursuit of profits view such fines or recalls as merely the cost of doing business.

Last summer, a salmonella outbreak caused hundreds of people to fall ill and triggered a national egg recall. Salmonella poisoning is all too common and sometimes results from inexcusable, knowing conduct like that carefully targeted by the Food Safety Accountability Act. The company responsible for the eggs at the root of the last summer's salmonella crisis had a long history of environmental, immigration, labor, and food safety violations. It is clear that fines are not enough to protect the public and effectively deter this unacceptable conduct. We need to make sure that those who knowingly poison the food supply will go to jail. This bill will significantly increase the chances that those who commit serious food safety crimes will face jail time, rather than merely a slap on the wrist.

Food safety received considerable attention last year, and I was pleased that Congress finally passed comprehensive food safety reforms, but our work is not done. A provision almost identical to the Food Safety Accountability Act was passed by the House with strong, bipartisan support but failed to make it into the final legislation that ultimately passed because of Republican objections in the Senate. Now that the Senate has unanimously passed this bill, it is again time for the House to act.

The American people should be confident that the food they buy for their families is safe. The uncertainty and fear caused by the current *E. coli* outbreak in Europe only reinforces the

need to pass the common sense Food Safety Accountability Act to protect our own food supply. I urge the House to quickly pass the Senate bill and join us in taking this important step toward protecting our food supply.

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today to acknowledge and celebrate the World Day Against Child Labor, which was commemorated earlier this week.

An estimated 215 million children across the world are still trapped in the worst forms of child labor. A report issued by the International Labor Organization, ILO, in May 2010 offered some good news in the fight against child labor. There is a decline in the number of girls trapped in child labor. There are fewer children doing hazardous work. We are closer than ever to universal ratification of ILO Convention 182, which prohibits the worst forms of child labor. Mr. President, 173 out of 192 participating nations have ratified this convention.

However, due to the economic crisis, there also have been setbacks. Child labor has been increasing among boys and in young people between the ages of 15 and 17. Progress in reducing child labor in Sub-Saharan Africa has stalled. While some people may point to the global economic crisis as a cause of these setbacks, we cannot use this as an excuse for complacency.

One can look at the country of Uzbekistan to see the dire need for more action. According to School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, over 2 million children are forcibly pulled from school by government officials to work in cotton fields. Uzbek cotton is listed as a good produced by forced labor and child labor by the Department of Labor. It is listed on the Tier 2 Watch List in the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report. Yet despite this clear, compelling, and thoroughly documented evidence of Uzbekistan's abject failure to live up to its international commitments under ILO Convention 182, business goes on as usual. Uzbekistan has received no sanction and continues to receive trade benefits from the United States under the Generalized System of Preference.

The work performed by these children, stooped over to pick cotton under a hot Sun, also falls under the category of hazardous work. Hazardous work is by its very nature likely to harm the health and safety of children. Hazardous work exposes children to physical, emotional, or even sexual abuse. It includes children working underground in mines, underwater, at dangerous heights, or in confined spaces. Children work with dangerous machinery, equipment, and tools. They may work in unhealthy environments, exposed to hazardous substances like nicotine in tobacco fields or to extreme

temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations that can damage growing bodies. Some children are even forced to work such long hours that they are up for entire nights or are not allowed to return to their own home at the end of the day.

The ILO estimates that 115 million children perform hazardous work. Forty-one million of these are girls and 74 million are boys. Sixty-two million are between the ages of 15 and 17, and 53 million are 14 years old or younger.

It is vitally important to get children out of the worst forms of child labor, including hazardous work, so they may attend school, do well in their studies, and gain the knowledge and skills necessary to build a decent life. To this end, the U.S. Government needs to approach the scourge of child labor in a holistic manner. We need to address the underlying poverty that forces so many children to forgo schooling in order to meet even their most basic needs.

Fortunately, through the Department of Labor, the United States has undertaken projects to do just that. In Ghana, DOL is working with the ILO and the Government of Ghana to implement a new, holistic program to reduce child labor in the cocoa sector by 70 percent by 2020. This effort has gone hand-in-hand with a renewed effort by the international cocoa industry, which has pledged \$7 million in new funding to this fight. I have been personally involved in this effort with my good friend and colleague in the House of Representatives, Congressman ELIOT ENGEL of New York.

In fact, this unified effort of the U.S. Government, the Ghanaian Government, and the cocoa industry recently reviewed innovative programs proposed by the cocoa industry in support of its \$7 million pledge. It is my hope that this approach, governments working hand-in-hand with industry and implementing partners, can become a model to combat the worst forms of child labor worldwide.

This is just one example of many Department of Labor programs that are in progress all over the world. Another such program, in Guatemala, takes at-risk children and provides them after-school activities that reinforce their education, giving them an opportunity for recreation and personal growth in stark contrast to the stunted prospects that follow from being forced to work long hours. Another program, in Lahore, Pakistan, has redesigned the looms people use to weave carpets, eliminating hazards such as back injuries and bone deformities that have plagued children. These and other Department of Labor projects form the backbone of U.S. efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor.

It is not enough to do this just at the Department of Labor though. In Afghanistan, a 2006 UNICEF report estimated that one in four children between the ages of 7 and 14 is subject to the worst forms of child labor. As the

Department of Defense and other departments are spending huge amounts of U.S. taxpayer dollars in Afghanistan, it is vitally important to require child labor protections in our various programs and contracts in that country.

Starting this year, a Department of Defense contract to provide market access to Afghan carpet makers will work hand-in-hand with the proven GoodWeave certification system to assure that the carpets made under this taxpayer-funded program are not made with the worst forms of child labor.

So while there has been much progress made, and our efforts abroad are continuing to build success, we must remain vigilant, even here at home. Regrettably, there are some States here in the United States that are trying to undermine the fundamental protections we have afforded to children for generations. For example, the Republican-controlled legislature of Maine decided to pass a bill stripping State-level child labor protections. Maine's Republican Governor decided it would be better for his State to take a step backward because he personally went to work at age 11, and, as he put it, "It's not a big deal. Work doesn't hurt anybody."

Well, I would like to tell you how putting a job before children's education can set them back. At a time when it seems that most new jobs require high skill levels, great harm is done by denying these children a chance to acquire these skills. We need to be educating the next generation of doctors, engineers, and scientists. However, the OECD shows that the United States has slipped to the 23rd best country at science education and 31st at math.

We are not going to catch up to other countries if our children are spending too much time working at McDonald's or Burger King. I agree that having a part-time job after school or on weekends can be beneficial. However, studies have shown that teenagers working more than 20 hours a week have a greater tendency toward academic and behavioral problems, as well as higher dropout rates. The United States should aspire to being the country that outbuilds, outeducates and outinnovates. If we continue undermining our child labor laws and neglecting education, we will be the country that outgrills, outflips and outfries!

There are even some Members of the Senate who have questioned whether child labor laws are constitutional. Apparently the protection of our most vulnerable children from exploitation isn't part of protecting the general welfare. Apparently the Supreme Court was incorrect when it unanimously upheld the Fair Labor Standards Act 70 years ago.

It is for all of these reasons that I continue the fight against the worst forms of child labor. It is also why I have come to the floor today to salute