

Unilever United States, United Egg Association, United Egg Producers, United Producers, Inc., US Dry Bean Council, US Wheat Associates, US-Colombia Business Partnership, USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council, USA Poultry & Egg Export Council, USA Rice Federation, Valley Fig Growers, Washington State Potato Commission, Welch Foods Inc., Western Growers Association.

I urge passage of this agreement, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 425, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

EXTENDING THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Speaker may postpone further proceedings on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2832 as though under clause 8(a)(1)(A) of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2832) to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS).

Ms. JENKINS. I thank the chair for yielding.

Three and a half trade deals that we have taken up today have bipartisan support, the three pending free trade agreements and the GSP extension within this bill. Both parties in both Chambers agree that these important trade pacts will grow our economy, create jobs, and make America more competitive in the global marketplace.

Sadly, however, the bipartisan, bicameral approval of the merits of these trade deals did not keep the Washington gamesmanship at bay. For nearly 10 months, as they pushed for an expanded and enlarged TAA program, our colleagues in the Senate allowed the GSP to lapse, holding American jobs

hostage until their political allies could be pacified with a sufficient payoff.

This delay wasn't simply an intellectual exercise either. It hurt real businesses, real families, and cost us real jobs in my home State of Kansas. Take the Berger Company in Atchison, Kansas. The family-owned Berger Company manufactures leather goods for sale across the United States. But due to the increased cost of materials caused by the lapse in the GSP, Berger has lost customers to foreign competitors like China, causing lower profit and placing real Kansas jobs at risk.

I'm voting for this bill because we need GSP to be reauthorized immediately, but I'm extremely disappointed that Senate Democrats have again risked the continued lapse of this important program all for a TAA program that does not work.

The results of Washington brinksmanship have real life impacts across this country. So while I'm hopeful that we will finally extend the GSP package today, I'm disappointed Washington political games made our small businesses, like the Berger Company, wait so long.

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

I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2832, which is extending what have been historically two programs that have received strong bipartisan support. Beginning in 1962, the TAA bill was originally put in under the Kennedy administration, and it has been extended for all these years. And the Generalized System of Preferences has also been there for a long time. Our importers and exporters have been using it as ways of getting things into the United States that have made real differences not only for our people but for people in developing countries.

Now, TAA provides critically needed assistance to workers who lose their jobs as a result of trade. It would be hard to find anybody on the floor of the House who wouldn't say that trade causes displacement of workers. There are jobs that move here, move there, and this is a recognition of that and a statement that we care about what happens to workers and that we give them some kind of help. It provides them with support, education, and training so that they can obtain new jobs in growth sectors. In my State, we used to do log exports. Logging was a big issue. Then it went away. Well, you have to retrain people, and community colleges have trained a lot of people in this kind of thing.

In 2009 Congress made some much-needed reforms in TAA, many of which addressed past criticisms of the program. These reforms included extending TAA to cover service workers and more manufacturing workers, offering long-term training and increasing training funds, and increasing the health care coverage tax credit.

This was probably the most important of the reforms. When people lose

their job, they have no health care. And everything that you have in your life can be wiped out by an illness or an injury. So the idea that you can get COBRA is a nice idea, but you've got to have money to do that. Most of the unemployment checks in this country don't make it possible for people to take advantage of the COBRA. So when we had this increase in support from the Federal Government for workers, we were really looking at the real problems that people face.

Now, unfortunately, last winter the House leadership let the 2009 reforms lapse, leaving a lot of workers just hanging out there. The Generalized System of Preferences was also permitted to expire, which harmed businesses that rely on the program both in developing countries and in the United States. While it's long overdue, I'm pleased to see we're finally moving the legislation to expand both of these programs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2832, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it's taken a long time for us to get here. We've had hours and hours of debate, last night and today, and literally years and years and years of discussion and of negotiation, and a lot of anguish and a lot of pain, but we have finally gotten here.

I want to begin by expressing my great appreciation to a man with whom I've been pleased to partner in cochairing what has been a long-standing group known as our Trade Working Group. It's sometimes partisan, sometimes bipartisan. It began two decades ago when Bill Archer was chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and Phil Crane chaired the Trade Subcommittee, and with every chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and the Trade Subcommittee, I've been privileged to join with them in working to build these coalitions for the very important goal of breaking down barriers to ensure that we can have access to consumer markets for union and nonunion workers in this country. And this is what it's all about.

DAVE CAMP has done a phenomenal job in negotiating these trade agreements and the issue which is before us today, which is trade adjustment assistance. Now I know that there's a lot of concern about it. I'm frankly not a huge enthusiast, but I recognize that while there is a net gain—a net gain—when it comes to the issue of global trade, there are some workers who are displaced.

□ 1650

While some people have been saying that those of us who are enthusiastically supporting the Korea, Panama, and Colombia free trade agreements are greatly exaggerating the positive impact of this, I've got to say that I recognize that there are some people who are going to be going through challenging economic times as a by-product of this agreement. That's why, as we look at this 21st century economy, it is critically important for us, Madam Speaker, to do everything that we can to ensure that our fellow Americans, U.S. workers, have the kind of training and expertise necessary to deal with this global economy in the 21st century. That's exactly what the Trade Adjustment Assistance package is all about. It's a modest package of \$300 million.

I know that last night, as he has just informed me, Mr. CAMP outlined the details of this to the House. He worked with the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Mr. BAUCUS, and with others to get this to the point where we are.

But we are now winding down this debate, and I think about the fact that, when Ronald Reagan on November 6 of 1979 announced his candidacy for President of the United States, in that speech, it was seen as heresy. I mean, it was almost a joke, Madam Speaker. Ronald Reagan said that he envisaged an accord of free trade among the Americas so that we could allow for the free flow of goods and services and capital. He was laughed at here in the United States, and he was laughed at throughout the hemisphere. Madam Speaker, since that time, we have seen tremendous, tremendous changes taking place.

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

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DREIER. It has been almost 32 years since Ronald Reagan made that announcement; and last Monday, a week ago Monday, on October 3, Democratic President Barack Obama sent these agreements for us to consider, and here we are now doing this.

There are so many people who have been involved in this. One of the things that has really impressed me, Madam Speaker, has been the involvement of the 87—now, I guess, 89—new Members on our side of the aisle who have brought about a change in the makeup of this institution. There are people who have stepped to the forefront—TOM REED, RICK BERG, TIM GRIFFIN, BOB DOLD, QUICO CANSECO, and many others—who have felt strongly about the need to get our economy growing and who know that, in so doing, we will be able to create jobs for U.S. workers.

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

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

Mr. DREIER. Let me just close by saying, over that 5-year period of time,

Madam Speaker, we have seen so many tremendous changes that have taken place. Five years is half the life for a child who was born on September 11. There have been changes in our economy—and in the global economy—in dealing with issues that weren't even addressed then. The iPad didn't exist 5 years ago when these were put into place. There are issues like encryption, cross-border dataflow, things like intermediary liability, privacy. Those were barely discussed then. Today, these are critical, important issues. This is a very small first step towards regaining our position as the world's global leader.

I thank my friend for his support, and I thank all of our colleagues who have been involved in this.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I rise in support of H.R. 2832, the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011.

This legislation continues vital coverage of the TAA program while it expands the Generalized System of Preferences, a key trade and development program.

We have a responsibility to ensure that our workers, communities, and economy can adjust to a rapidly globalizing economy. As Congress advances international trade opportunities for our firms, it has an opportunity to ensure that American workers can also compete.

Since 1962, the TAA has expanded to respond to the continual changes to the economy and the global system. Among the most significant changes were those that we made when the Democrats were in charge just in 2009, which expanded the program to include service workers as well as to improve the coverage of reemployment benefits, job search benefits, relocation and health care benefits. It produced tangible results. The coverage in 2008 certified 125,000 workers. As a result of the changes we made in 2009, 280,000 workers were certified.

The expansion of the program appropriately reflects the challenges trade poses to our service economy, and continues our commitment to the manufacturing sector. In my State alone, in 2010, the coverage reached over 10,000 workers and directed \$30 million in Federal funds to carry out those efforts and to support our economy as it adjusted to competition from international trade.

It's interesting to see the broad range of supporters. The Communications Workers of America say that TAA is a critical lifeline in providing retraining and education, helping service workers to pull themselves back up and find good new jobs. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will score the vote on TAA, writing that this legislation is a thoughtful compromise that preserves the more effective elements of the five-decade-old TAA program.

I am also pleased that we are dealing with the Generalized System of Pref-

erences. I think my good friend from the State of Kansas may have been confused. I was, frankly, frustrated that it had been held up. We passed it in the last Congress. There was nothing to have prevented my Republican friends from bringing it forward at the beginning of this Congress. In fact, I wished that they would have, but they didn't get around to it until September. I don't know why, but I think the criticism is misplaced.

Regardless, each day without action on GSP costs American companies \$1.8 million in extra, unnecessary import tariffs. I've watched as the expiration of GSP has cost Evergreen Container in Portland, Oregon, \$50,000 already this year—\$10,000 for this company, \$70,000 over here, another \$5,000 here. It adds up. \$1.8 million a day.

But it's more than just a trade agreement and helping American companies. Under the GSP program, we will judge our trading partners on the protection of American commercial interests, such as the protection of intellectual property and preventing the seizure of property belonging to U.S. citizens or businesses. We judge them on the protection of individual rights, the protection of commonly accepted labor rights, and the elimination of child labor.

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. We ought to add the protection of the environment to this criteria. I raised it in our Ways and Means hearing. The thought was we were going to go ahead and not adjust the status quo, but the protection of the environment exerts tremendous influence on international trade. The trade in illegally logged timber, for instance, costs the U.S.-based legal timber industry billions of dollars a year. If we truly expect trade to be a tool of development, trade must support environmental protections in our partner nations as our free trade agreements do.

Concern for the environment is a core element of development. It reflects the appreciation for civil law, for the protection of the rights of individuals, and of a concern for the long-term sustainability of state and society and of the planet. It should have a place in our GSP program. I hope when it comes next before us that we've added environmental protections to the criteria.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY. I rise in strong support of the bill.

I can speak very clearly about the relationship that we have with Korea because, in addition to being a General Motors dealer who sells Chevrolets and Cadillacs, I also sell Hyundais and Kias. I can tell you of the alliance that we have had, of the very strong partner we have had in Korea for so many

years. Since 1949, Korea has fought with us in every military skirmish—side by side, shoulder to shoulder with us. In the United States alone, Hyundai has invested over \$3 billion in bricks and mortar in building two plants—one in Montgomery, Alabama, the other in West Point, Georgia. When we're worried about the number of cars being sold here, let's understand one thing, that over 60 percent of the Korean cars sold in the United States are made by Americans.

□ 1700

There are 60,000 jobs in the United States right now because of Hyundai and Kia's investment between our borders. And when we look at our market, our global opportunity, we have got to pass these trade agreements. We have got to pass the TAA. Why? Because it's good for America in addition to all these jobs and the possibility of 250,000 additional jobs in the country that's looking for a job almost every day.

These jobs are there. They're available to us. We have got to get on with these trade agreements. In addition, let me also state that Hyundai and Hyundai dealers have raised over \$43 million in the fight against pediatric cancer, which is over 10 times what this Congress has invested in that fight against pediatric cancer.

The opportunities are outstanding right now. The opportunity is now, and what better time to pass these agreements than when we're hunting for the jobs that we need the most for our people and also with allies who have stood shoulder-to-shoulder and arm-in-arm with us in every single battle.

I would urge every single Member in this House to please pass the agreements. Let's move on. Let's get America back to work.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. I thank my good friend and colleague from the committee for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, many of us have been rising throughout the course of the debate today talking about the merits of the three pending trade agreements before us and why it's important for us to move forward on them, the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, greater market access to the goods, product services that are being made right here in America, a system of rules that all countries have to abide by that are parties to this agreement, according to international labor and environmental standards included in the body of the agreement, fully enforceable with any other provision, protection of intellectual property rights, and on and on and on. That's why I'm supportive of the three bilateral agreements before us.

But to be honest with the American people, and as long as trade remains a two-way street, there will be adverse impacts of trade on companies and workers here in America. When that

occurs, then the workers of that business should not just be left on their own.

That's why the reauthorization of the Trade Adjustment Assistance is important today, to move forward hand-in-hand with those trade agreements so those workers will have an opportunity to upgrade their skills, to go to school, to have a better match in the job market and find placement as quickly as possible. Since 1962, the TAA program has assisted those workers who lost their position as a result of international trade, helped them retrain and acquire skills needed for them to be more competitive in the global marketplace.

In Wisconsin alone in 2010, we had an estimated 10,359 workers who were covered by this program, and my State's not alone. In fact, the three largest TAA State recipients were Michigan, Ohio, California.

In 2010 in Wisconsin, 52 percent of the TAA participants were successfully employed within 3 months of leaving the program, and 88 percent of those participants continued that employment over the next few quarters. The benefit of this program not only helps workers in my State, but also those specifically in western Wisconsin that I represent.

In 2010, again, when Chart Energy & Chemicals in La Crosse moved some of its production line to China, approximately 230 employees were laid off, but they were able to receive reemployment and training services under the Federal TAA program. When Northern Engraving Corporation shut down its Luxco division tool shop in La Crosse, 27 workers were laid off; and they too qualified for assistance so that they could get reintegrated in the regional economy.

There are many more examples of that throughout Wisconsin and, I am sure, throughout the country. And that's why it was a bit discouraging that it took so long for us to reach an agreement on TAA reauthorization when there's wide bipartisan support and great support on the outside, from the Chamber of Commerce to the AFL-CIO, saying this is the right and decent thing to do for America's workers if we are going to move forward in a proactive trade agenda.

I want to take a moment and commend my good friend and colleague, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. CAMP, for the work that he did with Senator BAUCUS in order to get the TAA reauthorization in the place that it is today. I think it was very helpful.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The time of the gentleman has expired.

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

Mr. KIND. I thank my friend.

As I mentioned in committee last week during the markup, I think it would make sense if the committee, Ways and Means that had jurisdiction,

were to hold some hearings as we move forward on ways that we can improve the efficiency and the outcome of the TAA program. Any program is worthy of change and improvements. I think this is right for that.

My concern is this is only a 3-year reauthorization. I hope we can continue bipartisan support that continues beyond 3 years so it's not having to be linked to other trade agreements, but I think our committee has some work to do to improve a very successful program.

I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I would advise the gentleman from Washington that I have no other speakers and am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the Ways and Means Committee for their excellent work on the trade agreements and, most importantly, on Trade Adjustment Assistance; and I agree with the comments of my colleague from Wisconsin about why this program is so important.

I mean the bottom line is the TAA and the trade agreements themselves are part of figuring out how to help American workers and the American economy compete in a very, very difficult global economic situation. The amount of skills that our workers need now are vastly beyond what they needed in previous generations, and the need to update them constantly in order to continue to be competitive, to continue to be employable are a significant challenge for American workers.

This program is one way to give them help, to help give them the training and the skills that they need to continue to be employable. It is incredibly important for our workers, and we have heard the statistics about the number of workers in our country who have benefited from these programs.

But I also submit to you that it is critically important to our economy. Our economy needs a skilled workforce in order to compete. Trade Adjustment Assistance is one way to help our workers get those skills that they need. Certainly it helps them, but it also helps our businesses and our overall economy.

I, along with my colleague from Wisconsin, support all three trade agreements. I believe trade is critically important to growing our economy as well, and it's simple math. Ninety-five percent of the people in this world live someplace other than the United States of America, but the United States of America is responsible for 20 percent of the world's consumption.

If we're going to grow, we need access to other markets. Korea, Colombia, and Panama are good steps in that direction to give us access to those other markets so that our businesses can

have the possibility of growing their businesses and taking advantage of the growing economy.

It has been Asia and other parts of the world that are growing the most. We need access to those markets. Trade agreements like this give us that opportunity.

But as I have said for the entire 15 years I have been in Congress, that alone is not sufficient to protect American workers in our economy. Access to overseas markets on its own isn't enough to take care of our workers as they should be taken care of.

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. They need training. That's the other critical piece of these trade agreements that I want to emphasize.

For the first time—not the first time, actually we did it in Peru—thanks, actually, to the leadership of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and Mr. RANGEL and others, we have enforceable workers' rights in all three of these agreements.

There have been justifiable criticisms, for instance, in Colombia of the ability of workers that organize and collectively bargain. But this agreement will give us the enforceable ability to make sure that they do. If Colombia or any one of these countries doesn't live up to the ILO standards and requirements, this agreement now gives us the ability to use trade sanctions to make sure that they do.

That is an incredibly important step forward to protect the workers in this country. It needs to work together, access to overseas markets, to trade agreements and adequate protections for our workers so that they can compete in that environment with TSA, with the workers' rights provisions in these trade agreements. I believe that all three trade agreements and this TAA bill do this.

I thank the Ways and Means Committee, both Republican and Democrat, for their work in making this happen.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1710

Mr. LEVIN. I rise in strong support of this proposal, this bill. It restarts TAA and the GSP program. You know, this should have happened long ago. The Republican decision to let it lapse over 8 months ago was very wrong. And as a result, and we're not sure of the exact numbers because that isn't public, but hundreds of service workers were completely shut out. Fewer manufacturing workers became eligible, and those who did qualify for TAA received less assistance and support. So now we're taking action today that's long overdue.

I heard last night somebody said that the trade agreements were being held "hostage" to the TAA program. They just got it 180 degrees wrong. It was the TAA program that was being held hostage to trade agreements, and that never should have happened.

Well, now we can act. I just want to say, some people, I think, look upon TAA as kind of the teaspoon of sugar to make the trade agreements go down. That could not be more incorrect. What TAA does is to help those who are thrown out of work because of trade, through no fault of their own. And if we're going to have a competitive workforce, people need to be able to be retrained. And interestingly enough, if you go to any place where TAA operates, you'll see a wide variety of people who have become eligible and who are being helped.

So I very, very much support this bill which preserves the integrity, although not all, of the TAA program, and the 2009 reforms.

I close by saying I also support the GSP provisions in this bill. I think there is a misconception. It does help, indeed, developing countries who rely on the GSP. But as our ranking member knows from all of his work, it also benefits American companies and the workers they employ. In fact, the majority of GSP imports are inputs used to support U.S. manufacturing, including raw materials, parts and components, and machinery and equipment. So not only did failing to extend GSP hurt developing countries, it hurt American businesses and their employees.

A wide spectrum supports this bill, and I hope all of us on this side of the aisle will vote in favor of it.

Mr. CAMP. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 13½ minutes remaining.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker and Members of the House, I think it's important that we are passing this TAA today. But it is just the tip of the iceberg of the problems faced by workers in this country. I think that we are picking one group and saying, well, if you can qualify for having lost your job because of international trade adjustment of one sort or another, you're eligible for some benefits. But I think that in the much larger sense the House faces a problem. We're seeing it in the streets. We're seeing it on Wall Street. We're seeing it on my Central Plaza. We're seeing it here in Washington, DC. We're seeing it in Atlanta. The workers of this country are very upset, and there's a long agenda that is sort of dealt with here for one small group of workers that ought to be available for all workers.

Now, we're going to have to extend unemployment benefits at the end of this year unless, like last year, at Christmastime, we'll be saying to peo-

ple, You know what? We don't care about you; you're done. We haven't extended unemployment benefits. We ought to be doing it right now. It will be caught in the crush of all what happens at the end of the year, but it needs to happen.

Foreclosure relief. We continue to have foreclosures in this country with no way out for the workers of this country, including these. We didn't do anything for foreclosure problems for somebody who's lost their job because of trade. We make no adjustment. We don't say that you can lower the amount of your loan or the banks must negotiate. We don't do anything for people who are struggling with foreclosures in this country.

Health care. Health care in this bill makes it possible for people to get health care coverage. But there are thousands and thousands and thousands of workers, 14 million of them walking around in this country, with no health care, and we have done nothing this session to implement the Affordable Care Act.

Finally, I would just say there is one last issue that needs to be thought about. What happens to a worker who, training or not, exhausts all their unemployment benefits, and they have a family and they have a house? Now in the 1930s what people did was backed the car up to the house, put the furniture up on top, and drove off and got a job in California. You have got millions of people today who are tied to a house in Flint, Michigan, or Toledo, Ohio, or a thousand places. They can't drive off to Florida and get a job, or to California. They're stuck. And so they find themselves with no access to any kind of way to pay their mortgage. They're going to get foreclosed. Then they can leave, of course.

Or we've got to find some way to make it possible for workers in this economy as it recovers to somehow get by. If we don't care, if we just care about the workers who are lost because of trade—that's nice and we ought to do that. We're doing the right thing, but we ought to be thinking much broader than that if we're serious about coming out of the problems we have in this economy.

I urge everyone to vote for this bill and begin the drumbeat for the unemployment insurance extension and a couple of other things.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I support H.R. 2832, the bill that renews the Generalized System of Preferences, known as GSP, and also contains the Trade Adjustment Assistance, also called TAA.

This bill really is the cornerstone of the carefully crafted bipartisan and bicameral agreement that then prompted the President to send the three trade agreements to the Congress last Monday. So this has allowed us, this legislation today, has allowed us to move forward on a long-stalled trade agenda.

The bill renews GSP, which the House passed last month, and that is the largest trade preference program and is estimated to account for 82,000 U.S. jobs that are directly or indirectly related to that program.

The second portion of this bill, the bill that reauthorizes Trade Adjustment Assistance, is absolutely critical because it is one of the core items that has allowed these trade agreements to come forward. And this legislation really does ensure smaller government and less spending on an important program in these difficult economic times where we have a growing debt and deficit.

This program was streamlined and scaled back, and just quickly I'll note some of the highlights. There is no TAA for public sector workers. The number of weeks was reduced from 156 in the 2009 law down to 117 weeks. Also, there is no double-dipping. These benefits run concurrently with current unemployment insurance, or UI benefits, and the health care subsidy was reduced in this legislation.

We also eliminated half of the allowable justifications for the program's training waivers to ensure that those who are eligible for TAA are in those training programs with only limited exceptions.

We also consolidated and reduced all the non-income support expenditures. We reduced funding for the TAA for firms, and also added enhanced performance measures. Now, no worker will qualify for this unless certified by the Department of Labor. This is an important attempt to bring some reform and integrity to our unemployment programs, particularly by strengthening the job training provision where 80 percent of the waivers were used to waive people out of the requirement they job train.

□ 1720

This is an important reform; and it's going to be an important reform in this bill to make sure we implement it so as we move forward on the employment insurance debate later this year, as the gentleman from Washington State alluded to, we actually have a track record on some of these items and can see how they're at least beginning to work.

So I urge my colleagues to support not only all three trade agreements, but also what really was the cornerstone for bringing those three trade agreements to the floor, H.R. 2832.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 425, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion that the House concur in the Senate amendment.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3078) to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. LEVIN. I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. LEVIN. I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Levin moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3078 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE VII—CURRENCY REFORM FOR FAIR TRADE ACT

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act".

SEC. 702. CLARIFICATION REGARDING DEFINITION OF COUNTERAVAILABLE SUBSIDY.

(a) BENEFIT CONFERRED.—Section 771(5)(E) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(5)(E)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting ", and"; and

(3) by inserting after clause (iv) the following new clause:

"(v) in the case in which the currency of a country in which the subject merchandise is produced is exchanged for foreign currency obtained from export transactions, and the currency of such country is a fundamentally undervalued currency, as defined in paragraph (37), the difference between the amount of the currency of such country provided and the amount of the currency of such country that would have been provided if the real effective exchange rate of the currency of such country were not undervalued, as determined pursuant to paragraph (38)."

(b) EXPORT SUBSIDY.—Section 771(5A)(B) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(5A)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "In the case of a subsidy relating to a fundamentally undervalued currency, the fact that the subsidy may also be provided in circumstances not involving export shall not, for that reason alone, mean that the subsidy cannot be considered contingent upon export performance."

(c) DEFINITION OF FUNDAMENTALLY UNDERVALUED CURRENCY.—Section 771 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(37) FUNDAMENTALLY UNDERVALUED CURRENCY.—The administering authority shall determine that the currency of a country in which the subject merchandise is produced is a 'fundamentally undervalued currency' if—

"(A) the government of the country (including any public entity within the territory of the country) engages in protracted, large-scale intervention in one or more foreign exchange markets during part or all of the 18-month period that represents the most recent 18 months for which the information required under paragraph (38) is reasonably available, but that does not include any period of time later than the final month in the period of investigation or the period of review, as applicable;

"(B) the real effective exchange rate of the currency is undervalued by at least 5 percent, on average and as calculated under paragraph (38), relative to the equilibrium real effective exchange rate for the country's currency during the 18-month period;

"(C) during the 18-month period, the country has experienced significant and persistent global current account surpluses; and

"(D) during the 18-month period, the foreign asset reserves held by the government of the country exceed—

"(i) the amount necessary to repay all debt obligations of the government falling due within the coming 12 months;

"(ii) 20 percent of the country's money supply, using standard measures of M2; and

"(iii) the value of the country's imports during the previous 4 months."

(d) DEFINITION OF REAL EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE UNDERVALUATION.—Section 771 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677), as amended by subsection (c) of this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(38) REAL EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE UNDERVALUATION.—The calculation of real effective exchange rate undervaluation, for purposes of paragraph (5)(E)(v) and paragraph (37), shall—

"(A)(i) rely upon, and where appropriate be the simple average of, the results yielded from application of the approaches described in the guidelines of the International Monetary Fund's Consultative Group on Exchange Rate Issues; or

"(ii) if the guidelines of the International Monetary Fund's Consultative Group on Exchange Rate Issues are not available, be based on generally accepted economic and econometric techniques and methodologies to measure the level of undervaluation;

"(B) rely upon data that are publicly available, reliable, and compiled and maintained by the International Monetary Fund or, if the International Monetary Fund cannot provide the data, by other international organizations or by national governments; and

"(C) use inflation-adjusted, trade-weighted exchange rates."

SEC. 703. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TITLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the amendments made by this title.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a description of the extent to which United States industries that have been materially injured by reason of imports of subject merchandise produced in foreign countries with fundamentally undervalued currencies have received relief under title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.), as amended by this title.

SEC. 704. APPLICATION TO GOODS FROM CANADA AND MEXICO.

Pursuant to article 1902 of the North American Free Trade Agreement and section 408 of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1993 (19 U.S.C. 3438), the amendments made by section 702 of