

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 236, noes 174, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 691]

AYES—236

Abraham	Graves (LA)	Palazzo
Aderholt	Graves (MO)	Palmer
Allen	Griffith	Paulsen
Amash	Grothman	Pearce
Amodi	Guinta	Perry
Babin	Guthrie	Pittenger
Barletta	Hanna	Pitts
Barr	Hardy	Poe (TX)
Barton	Harris	Poliquin
Benish	Hartzel	Posey
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)	Price, Tom
Bishop (MI)	Hensarling	Ratcliffe
Bishop (UT)	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Black	Hice, Jody B.	Reichert
Blackburn	Hill	Renacci
Blum	Holding	Ribble
Bost	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Boustany	Huelskamp	Rigell
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Brat	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Bridenstine	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (AL)	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (IN)	Hurt (VA)	Rohrabacher
Buchanan	Issa	Rokita
Buck	Jenkins (WV)	Rooney (FL)
Bucshon	Johnson (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen
Burgess	Jolly	Roskam
Byrne	Jones	Ross
Calvert	Jordan	Rothfus
Carter (GA)	Joyce	Rouzer
Carter (TX)	Katko	Royce
Chabot	Kelly (MS)	Russell
Chaffetz	Kelly (PA)	Salmon
Clawson (FL)	King (IA)	Sanford
Coffman	King (NY)	Scalise
Cohen	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Cole	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Collins (GA)	Knight	Shimkus
Collins (NY)	Labrador	Shuster
Comstock	LaHood	Simpson
Conaway	LaMalfa	Sinema
Cook	Lamborn	Smith (MO)
Costa	Lance	Smith (NE)
Costello (PA)	Latta	Smith (NJ)
Cramer	LoBiondo	Stefanik
Crawford	Long	Stewart
Crenshaw	Loudermilk	Stivers
Culberson	Love	Stutzman
Curbelo (FL)	Lucas	Thompson (PA)
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Thornberry
Denham	Lummis	Tiberi
Dent	MacArthur	Tipton
DesJarlais	Marchant	Trott
Diaz-Balart	Marino	Turner
Dold	Massie	Upton
Donovan	McCarthy	Valadao
Duffy	McCauley	Wagner
Duncan (SC)	McClintock	Walberg
Duncan (TN)	McHenry	Walden
Ellmers (NC)	McKinley	Walker
Emmer (MN)	McMorris	Walorski
Farenthold	Rodgers	Walters, Mimi
Fitzpatrick	McSally	Weber (TX)
Fleischmann	Meehan	Webster (FL)
Fleming	Messer	Wenstrup
Flores	Mica	Westerman
Forbes	Miller (FL)	Whitfield
Fortenberry	Miller (MI)	Williams
Fox	Moolenaar	Wilson (SC)
Franks (AZ)	Mooney (WV)	Wittman
Garrett	Mullin	Womack
Gibbs	Mulvaney	Woodall
Gibson	Murphy (PA)	Yoder
Gohmert	Neugebauer	Yoho
Goodlatte	Newhouse	Young (AK)
Gosar	Noem	Young (IA)
Gowdy	Nugent	Young (IN)
Granger	Nunes	Zeldin
Graves (GA)	Olson	Zinke

NOES—174

Adams	Blumenauer	Capuano
Ashford	Bonamici	Cárdenas
Bass	Brady (PA)	Carney
Beatty	Brown (FL)	Carson (IN)
Becerra	Brownley (CA)	Cartwright
Bera	Bustos	Castor (FL)
Beyer	Butterfield	Castro (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Capps	Chu, Judy

Cicilline	Huffman	Peters
Clark (MA)	Israel	Peterson
Clarke (NY)	Jackson Lee	Pingree
Clay	Jeffries	Pocan
Cleaver	Johnson (GA)	Polis
Clyburn	Johnson, E. B.	Price (NC)
Connolly	Kaptur	Quigley
Conyers	Keating	Rangel
Cooper	Kelly (IL)	Rice (NY)
Courtney	Kennedy	Richmond
Crowley	Kilmer	Roybal-Allard
Cuellar	Kind	Ruiz
Cummings	Kirkpatrick	Ruppersberger
Davis (CA)	Langevin	Rush
Davis, Danny	Larsen (WA)	Ryan (OH)
DeGette	Larson (CT)	Sánchez, Linda
Delaney	Lawrence	T.
DeLauro	Lee	Sarbanes
DelBene	Levin	Schakowsky
DeSaulnier	Lewis	Schiff
Deutch	Lieu, Ted	Scott (VA)
Dingell	Lipinski	Scott, David
Doggett	Lofgren	Serrano
Doyle, Michael	Lowenthal	Sewell (AL)
F.	Lowe	Sherman
Duckworth	Lujan Grisham	Sires
Edwards	(NM)	Slaughter
Ellison	Lujan, Ben Ray	Smith (WA)
Engel	(NM)	Speier
Eshoo	Lynch	Swalwell (CA)
Esty	Maloney,	Takai
Farr	Carolyn	Takano
Fattah	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (CA)
Foster	Matsui	Thompson (MS)
Frankel (FL)	McCollum	Titus
Fudge	McDermott	Tonko
Gabbard	McGovern	Torres
Galleo	McNerney	Tsongas
Garamendi	Meeks	Van Hollen
Graham	Meng	Vargas
Grayson	Moore	Veasey
Green, Al	Moulton	Vela
Grijalva	Murphy (FL)	Velázquez
Gutiérrez	Nadler	Visclosky
Hahn	Napolitano	Walz
Hastings	Neal	Wasserman
Heck (WA)	Norcross	Schultz
Higgins	O'Rourke	Waters, Maxine
Himes	Pallone	Watson Coleman
Hinojosa	Pascrell	Welch
Honda	Pelosi	Wilson (FL)
Hoyer	Perlmutter	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—23

Aguilar	Harper	Payne
Boyle, Brendan	Jenkins (KS)	Pompeo
F.	Johnson, Sam	Sanchez, Loretta
DeFazio	Kildee	Schrader
DeSantis	Kuster	Schweikert
Fincher	Loeb	Sessions
Frelinghuysen	Meadows	Smith (TX)
Green, Gene	Nolan	Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1059

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 691, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2693. An act to designate the arboretum at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, as the "Phyllis E. Galanti Arboretum".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following

titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 142. An act to require special packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 209. An act to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 993. An act to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

S. 2308. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of church pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2393. An act to extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON MOTION TO RECOMMIT ON CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 644, TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question on adopting a motion to recommit on the conference report to accompany H.R. 644 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 644, TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 560, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 644) to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 560, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 9, 2015, at page H9104.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on the conference report to accompany H.R. 644.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to be here today to talk about the conference report on the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015. This process marks a return to regular order and ensures that Members and constituent voices are heard. As chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, I share the Speaker's commitment to an open and transparent process.

The conference report builds on the good work of my fellow conferees, Representatives REICHERT and TIBERI, as well as support from a number of our Ways and Means members in the conference as a whole and dozens of other Members. It delivers on the promises we made to those Members when we considered trade legislation earlier this year.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, this bill is a vital part of our progrowth agenda. It will level the playing field for Americans and also make it easier for them to compete in a global marketplace. It significantly improves trade facilitation. Here is how: it ensures that Customs and Border Protection focuses on its trade-related mission and streamlines processing of legitimate trade which will increase U.S. competitiveness and create U.S. jobs; it modernizes the agency's automated system and reduces paperwork burden. Basically, this bill replaces inefficiency with innovation and eliminates outdated systems.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that free trade is enforceable trade, and I am glad that this bill significantly strengthens enforcement of America's trade law. It creates new tools to combat currency manipulation based on ideas from Representative MILLER and her colleagues in the Michigan delegation. It gives Customs and Border Protection new tools and holds it accountable to effectively act against evasion of antidumping and countervailing duties, including by targeting risky imports and establishing a new investigation process with strict deadlines and judicial review. Representatives BOUSTANY and JASON SMITH deserve credit for working together to make sure these provisions were included.

The conference report strengthens trade promotion authority by reaffirming that trade agreements should not include provisions on immigration or greenhouse gas emissions, for which Representatives KING and SESSIONS deserve great recognition.

It ensures greater oversight of administration trade nominees and at trade negotiating rounds.

This bill also includes important provisions to help fight human trafficking, which is a scourge that we must take seriously.

Thanks to Representative ROSKAM's leadership, the conference report combats politically motivated acts against our good friend and ally Israel.

With respect to the miscellaneous tariff bill, it reaffirms Congress' com-

mitment to advancing a legislative process with robust consultation and consistent with House rules. I fully intend to work with my colleagues to develop this process early next year.

Finally, it contains the Internet Tax Freedom Act to permanently ban States and localities from taxing Internet access or Internet commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this important legislation. While I celebrate this bill, this is only the beginning. As chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, I want to make sure my constituents in Texas and constituents all across America understand that we are going to continue to move progrowth bills that help grow our economy and make it easier for all Americans to find good jobs and have more opportunities.

We have got an ambitious agenda, and we are just getting started. You can expect to see more action soon at our committee and on this floor on trade, on jobs, and on all the economic issues that matter to the American people. We are going to lead, and we are going to deliver.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this conference report. I am disappointed that we have passed up an opportunity for a truly bipartisan action on Customs and trade legislation. The Senate took that opportunity over the summer. It passed a Customs bill by a vote of 78-20 that was truly about Customs and trade enforcement. It included a strong provision to address currency manipulation, the most significant trade enforcement failure over the past decade, and the Senate bill very importantly avoided including wrongful positions and provisions that had nothing to do whatsoever with Customs or trade enforcement.

The House bill did just the opposite. It passed a bill that seeks to prevent our trade agreements from addressing climate change and weakens current law on human trafficking. It failed to include anything meaningful on currency manipulation, even though just a few years ago this House passed a currency bill very similar to what was in the Senate Customs bill by a vote of 348-79. Because of the partisan and flawed nature of the House Customs bill, just 12 Democrats voted for it.

This conference report is far more like the fundamentally flawed House bill than the Senate bill. The conference committee rejected the Senate currency provision, as I said, one that had the support of 348 House Members just a few years ago.

There is much talk about how this bill will create jobs and about economic growth. But make no mistake; over the past decade or so, currency manipulation has cost the U.S., our workers, and our industry between 2 and 5 million jobs. Instead, this conference bill includes a meaningless pro-

vision that simply calls for more talk, more deference to the Treasury Department, and no real action.

The climate change language in the conference report sends just the wrong message as our diplomats are working in Paris with over 150 nations to find an agreement on this threat to our environment. The language in this conference report on climate change is far more than confusing, as some people like to say. It would prevent us, for example, from negotiating provisions like common fuel efficiency standards, a very real possibility in our negotiations with Europe. As reported today from Paris, the Republican Party of the United States may be the only political party anywhere in denial about climate change. That denial is why this provision on climate in this conference report is before us.

Now, as to human trafficking, this provision weakens current law by allowing for a trade agreement with a tier 3 country to be fast-tracked so long as that country "has taken concrete actions" to implement recommended changes, no matter how egregious the conditions are still in place. Countries on tier 3 are the worst actors, countries that the State Department has concluded "do not fully comply with the minimum standards under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act." We need to get these countries to meet minimum standards on trafficking, certainly well before we enter into a trade investment relationship with them. Unfortunately, this conference report does not get us there.

These and other fundamental flaws outweigh the enforcement provisions that were included in the conference report. Most of the enforcement provisions are weak, and I think they are being oversold. For example, the bill establishes an interagency enforcement center, but that has already existed for several years.

It renews the Super 301, which requires the USTR to report regularly on its trade enforcement priorities, but this is something an administration can already do on its own, just as the Clinton administration did.

The bill establishes, also, a new trade enforcement trust fund, but those funds still need to be appropriated and paid for, just as they did in the past.

It requires the ITC to make information related to imports available on its Web site, information that already exists in other forms in the same Web site.

All this is very disappointing because there are positive aspects of this bill, such as the ENFORCE Act that my colleague LINDA SANCHEZ has spearheaded, which will help to address the circumvention of antidumping and countervailing duties to address unfair trade. All of the deep flaws in this conference report far overshadow this provision and the real Customs provisions that have long had bipartisan support.

Going further, the bill includes an Internet tax provision added by the

conferees that has absolutely no place in this Customs bill. It was neither in the House nor the Senate Customs bill. Not only is it not a Customs measure, it is not even a trade measure. Dropping this provision into a conference report at the last minute and with no warning is no way to legislate. It is the opposite of regular order.

Indeed, this conference report does not tell it straight. As I said, it deletes the only provision that reflects meaningful legislation on currency, which has devastated U.S. jobs and economic growth, legislation that overwhelmingly passed the House previously.

□ 1115

It keeps provisions inserted by the House to encourage Republicans who oppose action on climate change, as I said, at the same time the world is meeting in Paris, thwarting further possible action on climate change in trade negotiations, including with Europe.

It tones down a provision which had teeth on human sex and labor trafficking.

It sneaks in another provision totally unrelated to Customs, as I said, never being discussed at the only meeting of the conference committee, relating to taxation of Internet access. It leaves in the dust the issue of trying to even out the taxation of sales on the Internet with sales at hardworking brick-and-mortar stores.

For all of these reasons, all of them, I strongly urge a “no” vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), who is the chairman of the Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. I thank him for his hard work, and Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. TIBERI, and other members of the committee, who have worked hard on this legislation, and, also, Members across the aisle who have come together to build this piece of legislation presented here today.

I rise in strong support, Mr. Speaker, of this important legislation.

In my home State of Washington, 40 percent of jobs are tied directly to trade. We are the most trade-dependent State in the country. This bill supports that trade and those jobs through the elimination of unnecessary roadblocks U.S. companies face when exporting and importing goods and the enhanced enforcement of our laws. And it lays the groundwork for the miscellaneous tariff bill, often called the MTB, which reduces costs on American manufacturers and supports jobs across this country.

I am proud that this bill includes several provisions that I have championed with colleagues across the aisle from the Pacific Northwest, including outdoor recreation apparel provisions with my colleague from the State of Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), and the renewal of the State trade expansion program

with my colleague from the State of Washington (Mr. LARSEN). We have fought hard for those two provisions, and they are included in this legislation.

That program helps small businesses grow by making it easier for them to sell their products across this world, which, of course, helps create jobs here in the United States. The more products we sell, the more jobs we create here at home. It has supported over 430 small businesses in Washington and 2,200 jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me today in supporting American farmers, American workers, and businesses through stronger enforcement of our laws and streamlined trade.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ), another member of our committee.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015. I am extremely frustrated that, after the long path to get us to the conference report before us today, I won't be able to support the bill.

As I said during our conference committee meeting earlier this week: if Customs were truly all that this bill was about, it would pass overwhelmingly on the floor.

I strongly support the bulk of what is in the final bill. Trade enforcement should always move in lockstep with our trade policy. It is only when countries live up to agreed-upon laws and regulations that we can truly have robust trade, but robust trade also requires strong enforcement.

Particularly for me, I am pleased that the bulk of the ENFORCE Act is finally at the finish line after many years of work. One of my biggest priorities for several years has been finding a way to combat the blatant abuse and duty evasion by some foreign producers that undercut American industry. Foreign companies use schemes to avoid paying the duties they owe on goods that they bring into the United States.

We will finally give some real teeth to our enforcement procedures and send the right message to domestic manufacturers, employers, and workers that this Congress cares about Customs enforcement. This idea doesn't hinder free trade. Instead, it promotes fair trade and sends a strong signal to foreign producers that the U.S. will not tolerate abuses of internationally agreed upon trade rules. By increasing our Customs security measures, we ensure that American companies that play by the rules are not disadvantaged as a result of evasion by foreign competitors.

Unfortunately, unrelated TPA language included in the final bill will keep me from being able to support something that I have worked on for many, many years.

In this bill, we fail to address currency manipulation in a meaningful

way. The conference report also falls short in the areas of climate change and human trafficking. Specifically, we should not tie our hands when it comes to combating climate change, nor should we be rushing to increase our trade with countries that persist in allowing human trafficking. To me, these are not the values of this country. They are no-brainers, and they shouldn't be in this bill. But today, we fell short.

For those reasons, I cannot support the final Customs package that we have before us today.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI), the former chairman of the Trade Subcommittee who played a key role in bringing forth this legislation.

Mr. TIBERI. I thank the chairman for all his leadership on this going back years.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act in April of this year, and it is great to see that this issue is finally getting done.

I would really like to thank Speaker RYAN and, again, Chairman BRADY; Chairman REICHERT; a special thanks to Representative BOUSTANY for his leadership going way back as well; and JASON SMITH, the Congressman from Missouri, for his incredible work to get this bill in a better place. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Senate who helped make this a successful conference committee.

This bill presents a long, long overdue opportunity. I would ask my colleagues to not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

In my home State of Ohio, one in five workers' jobs, Mr. Speaker, depends on trade. Trade drives our economy. In fact, exports from Ohio last year hit an all-time high. This bill will make it even easier for Ohio companies to trade and will increase exports, and that means increasing jobs in my State of Ohio.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection Act plays a pivotal role in helping ensure that our trade agreements, our preference programs, and our U.S. trade laws are enforced and that legitimate trade is done. Over the years, the volume and the complexity of trade and the challenges, such as combating evasion of duties and protecting U.S. intellectual property rights, have grown, and grow more complex.

Meanwhile, we are facing increased competition around the world, and it is critical to keep the flow of trade moving efficiently.

Customs issues are vital to our competitiveness, security, and safety.

Streamlining legitimate trade and providing benefits to trusted traders will increase U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace.

This bill would reduce barriers and burdens to our small and medium businesses that drive our economy, saving them time and money, and, again, create jobs.

Another major pillar of this bill is strengthening enforcement of our trade remedy laws.

Enforcing U.S. intellectual property rights, anti-dumping, and countervailing duty laws prevents our competitors from gaining an edge by cheating. When our competitors around the world don't play by the rules, we get hurt; our American businesses get hurt; and our American workers pay.

When our American companies and American workers compete on a level playing field, they win; we win.

This bill makes our trade remedies more effective by allowing our Customs agencies to take quick action against these bad actors, giving our businesses a fair opportunity to compete and win.

This bill also contains a commitment to advancing a Miscellaneous Tariff Bill process. I strongly support that commitment, and will continue to work to find a path forward, Mr. Speaker. MTBs provide important relief to our manufacturers who import materials that have no domestic content or supply. The tariffs they pay—or the taxes, they are taxes—on these products make the entire manufacturing supply chain and the process more expensive to my constituents. The MTB process must be resolved in a way that is not only consistent with our House rules, but also our constitutional responsibilities.

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. TIBERI. I am confident we can resolve these issues, Mr. Speaker. This has been a long overdue bill that provides much modernization to our Customs process to make it easier for our manufacturers and our businesses and, ultimately, our workers, to export their products around the world. In the end, we win.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act, or the Customs bill. This legislation has historically been a bipartisan bill, but the majority has politicized the Customs legislation by adding several riders that would be harmful to our trade policy.

The bill undermines our ability to address several of the most critical global issues that we face: climate change, human trafficking, and immigration. And it includes no meaningful method for dealing with one of the biggest causes of job loss and wage suppression in the United States: currency manipulation, which has cost our Nation over 5 million jobs.

Ironically, world leaders are concluding negotiations today in Paris at the largest climate summit in history. They are working hard to hash out an agreement that, as the Sierra Club has pointed out, will be undermined by the

Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. With the bill before us today, the United States will not be allowed to address greenhouse gas emissions in future trade negotiations. Imagine.

The bill also contains no funding to support the enforcement and monitoring of our trade agreements, and it lacks any automatic mechanism for ensuring compliance with our trade rules. This administration has never self-initiated a trade complaint against any of our free trade partners. It takes years for the administration to bring a case against countries that subsidize or dump their product in our markets.

Lack of enforcement of our trade agreements has plagued our country for decades. Despite environmental rules in the U.S.-Peru free trade agreement, the overwhelming majority of timber from Peru is illegally logged. Despite the labor rules in the Colombia free trade agreement, over 100 Colombian trade unionists have been murdered, 19 this year alone.

This bill does not adequately address enforcement. It lacks the mechanisms for ensuring compliance with trade rules. As I said, no administration has ever self-initiated a labor or environmental trade complaint against any of our free trade partners. Why would we think that this would begin now?

While this bill authorizes funding for enforcement, there is no guarantee that this funding will ever be provided. We already lack the critical funding to enforce our existing trade agreements. American workers cannot afford to suffer through additional losses as their jobs are shipped to countries that do not play by the rules.

Worst of all, one day after International Human Rights Day, which was yesterday, this legislation contains a provision that will weaken U.S. efforts to curb human trafficking forced labor. The bill would allow for expedited consideration of a trade agreement with nations classified as the worst offenders of human trafficking.

We have already seen the administration's willingness to do whatever it takes to secure a trade deal when it upgraded the human trafficking ranking of Malaysia to conclude the TPP negotiations. Malaysia was in the same category as Iran just 5 months ago. Where are our values with regard to human life?

The biggest problem with our economy today is that too many Americans are in jobs that do not pay them enough to live on. They are struggling. One of the main reasons for this is several decades of bad trade policy that has shipped millions of jobs overseas, like the policies in this Customs bill and the TPP.

□ 1130

People in this body like to say that all of the job losses and the wage depression are because of technology and globalization. It is. It is because of the policy choices we have made over the years. It is time for us to rewrite the rules.

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

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, millions of jobs are at stake as is the fate of our country's economy. Working class families in this Nation are struggling just to get by. Men and women are scraping together meager earnings to put food on their tables, to warm their homes, and to take care of their kids. They can't think about sending their kids to college. They can't think about vacations or retirement security.

We need to decide if we are going to rebuild a land of access and opportunity, where anyone who is willing to work hard and to play by the rules can find a good job that can support a family. There is no reason to make bad trade policy even worse. This legislation, with enforcement gaps and harmful negotiating objectives is unacceptable. We can and should do better for working people. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), who has played a key role in strengthening trade enforcement in this bill.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank Chairman BRADY, Chairman TIBERI, Chairman REICHERT, Congressman JASON SMITH, and others on the committee, as well as staff, for helping make this legislation—finally, this conference report—a reality that will become law.

Mr. Speaker, today, Louisiana's seafood industry is being severely injured by illegal foreign imports. Right now, the fundamental issue is economic growth. How do we empower our seafood producers, our farmers, and our manufacturers to grow their businesses? to create opportunity? to grow this economy? The legislation before us today is important because, as we seek to expand market access for all of our businesses and our farmers, we need seamless trade facilitation and strong enforcement if we are going to achieve that economic growth.

This bill contains language from my PROTECT Act, providing new tools for the relevant Federal agencies, for legitimate importers and distributors, and for trade-affected domestic industries to prevent and combat fraud at our border, not after the fact. That is a key distinction and a key piece of this legislation. It will allow our seafood producers, our farmers, and our manufacturers to compete on a fair playing field here in our American domestic market as we seek open market access abroad for them as well.

Additionally, crawfish processors in my State of Louisiana have suffered for 15 years because of the unfair dumping of crawfish from China and other illegal sources. In effect, the administration punished domestic crawfish producers by forcing them to pay for the delays caused by Chinese dumpers, by the U.S. insurance companies that posted bond for the duties, and, in

some cases, by the Customs and Border Patrol, itself. This bill contains an important fix that will make sure that our crawfish producers are paid what they are owed.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, this Customs reauthorization conference report, will make necessary improvements, not only to ensure fraud is prevented at our border, but so that our American industries are treated fairly. I urge its support.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), a distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. KIND. I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the committee and as someone who has been involved in the negotiations of the legislation before us, I rise in strong support of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act.

The bill that we have before us today is not the bill that came out of the House in June. There are much-needed improvements. As we debate trade policy and where we are going in the 21st century global economy, we need strong enforcement mechanisms so that, when we get standards in these trade agreements that elevate it as being up to us to level the playing field for our workers, for our businesses, and for our farmers, we have the tools to ensure that those standards are enforced on an appropriate basis, so we are able to counter unfair trade practices as they are applied against us. That is exactly what is in this bill right now. This bill will end any importation of products that are made from the exploitation of child and forced labor, for instance.

This bill also includes the ENFORCE Act, additional tools to enforce the provisions that we do negotiate in future trade agreements.

This bill establishes the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center for greater coordination between our agencies in order to enforce provisions that we negotiate in trade agreements.

It establishes an enforcement trust fund, which is due to the hard work my friend and colleague from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) put in, so that there are dedicated resources in order to enforce the provisions that we fought to achieve.

It establishes a Super 301 section—again, enhancing the enforcement on those standards that many of us have been fighting for: core labor, environmental, human rights protections—in the body of these trade agreements, which are fully enforceable like any other provision. That Super 301 will give us tools that will enable us to move forward on that.

It also establishes a State Trade and Export Promotion Program—reauthorizing it and funding it—to make it easier for our small businesses and our manufacturers back home to be able to export more easily. We know that those exporting companies typically

pay their workers, roughly, 18 to 19 percent above other workers within that sector; so it is a win for our small businesses back home.

It is not a perfect bill. It is the product of compromise and bipartisanship. I think it advances the ball when it comes to key enforcement. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), who played a key role in the language defending our friend and ally Israel.

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank Chairman BRADY.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of years ago, Israel's Ambassador Michael Oren wrote an opinion piece that got my attention, and he described the waves of attempts to wipe Israel off the map.

He said the first wave was military, and we know how that worked: Israel's enemies worked together, and they were not successful in defeating Israel back in 1948. The second wave was a wave of terror. That is still ongoing, but that wave has not been successful. Yet there is a third wave, and the third wave is, actually, more insidious. The third wave is a movement called the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement. It is an attempt to take away Israel's legitimacy, to hold Israel to a standard to which no other country in the world is held.

So let's not kid ourselves that this is an attempt to drive Israel to the negotiating table—this movement, that is. It is an attempt to wipe Israel off the map. It is the smart, long move for the haters of Israel.

But, today, in this bill, the House is saying we stand with Israel. We stand with Israel, and we are pushing back. We are making it the official policy of the United States, along with the Trade Promotion Authority Act, which says we are going to push back against state-sponsored BDS activities. There is good work here.

Mr. Speaker, there are many times when people ask: Can't people get along in Congress? The answer is, yes, we can. This is strongly supported on a bipartisan basis, and it does two things in particular that I want to bring your attention to:

Number one, it works to protect American companies from foreign lawsuits, which is incredibly important because of our strong commercial relationship with the Israelis. Secondly, it has a reporting requirement, so it makes the administration more mindful, and we are going to have more information.

I thank Congressman VARGAS, who was a coauthor with me in some of the underlying legislation that was adopted by Chairman BRADY and others. I thank all of the conferees.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 13 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Texas has 16½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), who has played a key role in advancing our entire progrowth trade agenda.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the chairman for moving this bill forward and getting it one step closer to law after his long-term engagement in trade facilitation.

Mr. Speaker and Members, trade facilitation and trade is key to growing our economy. This bill makes needed reforms to our Customs procedures; it strengthens enforcement measures behind our trade agreements; and it removes unnecessary barriers to trade.

The bill couldn't come at a more important time. Think about it. We are in the midst of the opportunity to complete two of the most ambitious trade agreements in our Nation's history: one with countries in the Pacific Rim and the other with our allies in the European Union. The United States used to be at the top. We were at the top for our efficiency and trade and logistics and moving goods across the border, but our Customs procedures have become outdated, and we have slipped. Now we have too much paperwork and too much inefficiency. This bipartisan bill streamlines and modernizes our Customs system to get us back on track.

Why is trade important? Of course, the answer is very simple: It is about jobs.

Trade supports one in five American jobs. In my State of Minnesota, more than 774,000 jobs are connected to trade; so trade is driving our economy. Many of these jobs are held by people who do work at small- and medium-sized businesses, which are the backbone of our economy. In fact, 98 percent of all American exporters are small- or medium-sized employers. These are jobs that pay more. They pay higher than average wages, and they pay better salaries for American workers.

In addition to supporting American jobs, the Customs bill also includes stronger enforcement tools that are essential to the trade agreements that we have with other countries so that they don't cheat. It provides fair and strong rules to hold other countries accountable for their unfair trade practices, and it will help tear down barriers that unfairly block our goods from foreign markets.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am excited to see the Customs bill move forward on a bipartisan basis. It will improve trade facilitation so as to move goods and services more efficiently.

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), a key member of the Ways and Means Committee who is focused on American agriculture and American outerwear.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

This legislation will update and streamline our country's Customs and Border policies to facilitate trade and enhance U.S. competitiveness. Included in the bill are a number of additional, commonsense provisions.

For example, the bill fixes a technical error which inadvertently increased the tariff rates on outerwear. Not only is this fix important to producers, retailers, and consumers, but it also brings the U.S. back into compliance with our commitments under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

While I am disappointed we couldn't find a path forward on the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill process, I am pleased the bill contains language in support of continued work on this issue.

The conference report also takes important steps to strengthen Trade Promotion Authority. TPA is necessary to ensure that the U.S. gets the best possible deal in trade negotiations as we move forward, and these agreements should leverage our country's comparative advantages in all industries, certainly including energy.

For this reason, I was happy to see the inclusion of language to prevent the administration from using trade agreements to negotiate very costly greenhouse gas emission rules in the United States. I also want to make sure Nebraska producers can make the most of the opportunities provided by a level playing field in order to increase exports.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this Customs bill fails totally to address a custom that is the custom of the USTR: saying one thing and doing another.

Were it possible to legislate trust, to legislate candor, to legislate fidelity to public duty, I would be the most enthusiastic supporter this bill could have. Unfortunately, this proposal represents only a very thin, see-through window dressing for a runaway bureaucracy that is pursuing its own multinational corporate agenda and ignoring the public interest.

The USTR, in its history, has never successfully challenged an environmental abuse. Though the USTR has been charged since February 2009 with preventing trade in illegal logging and in the destruction of Peruvian rain forests, the Environmental Investigation Agency recently reported: "Illegal logging in Peru and the associated trade remains a serious and unabated problem." There has been a "complete failure to enforce these obligations . . ." One such obligation is a very simple audit to demonstrate whether logs are

being harvested legally or illegally. I have specifically asked the USTR repeatedly to just produce the audit so we can see, and they have refused to provide that documentation or to admit that their enforcement has totally failed to do that simple matter. Meanwhile, coffins with the names of brave Peruvian inspectors are being dragged through the streets.

The USTR trumpets its environmental successes; yet the Peruvian Government is being rewarded for going backward, not forward, on the environment.

□ 1145

USTR has never successfully challenged worker abuses. Almost 8 years after the Administration received a complaint about serious abuses in Guatemala, such as the right to work and join with other workers without being murdered, USTR has not remedied the complaint.

In Honduras, USTR announced with great fanfare just by coincidence yesterday that, after 3 long years of delay on child labor and other abuses, it had a new plan. Well, it is the same type of plan that failed in Guatemala. We don't need new public relation plans. We need to enforce the law effectively.

What reason is there conceivably to believe that Vietnam, a country with one union that is only a branch of the Communist Party, will somehow fulfill its trade obligations under the Trans-Pacific Partnership for a complete overhaul of its system when it takes the Administration almost 8 years to address Guatemala labor concerns? More likely, we will simply be joining another race to the bottom with a 60-cent-per-hour Vietnamese wage.

Just as it lacked the will to enforce environmental and working conditions, USTR prioritized trade even when that meant excusing modern-day slave trade in corrupt Malaysia. The bureaucratic manipulation and indifference to human trafficking in Asia is disgraceful.

The only thing that is transparent about USTR is the ease of seeing through its propaganda. Certainly, I am very concerned about climate change, but the real climate that needs changing when it comes to our trade policy is the climate of indifference and secrecy at USTR.

I ask that you vote against this bill in order to develop a true pro-trade, 21st-century American policy that reflects our basic American values and protects our jobs.

Mr. LEVIN. If the chairman does not mind, I would like to yield to the distinguished leader. Is that okay, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Yes, sir.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our distinguished leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on behalf of America's

working families. I thank the chairman of the committee for his courtesy in enabling me to speak at this time.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a responsibility to stand with American manufacturing and to help create good-paying jobs for the hardworking families who are the backbone of our country. The middle class is the backbone of our democracy. In order to have fair trade, we must have robust tools to enforce the obligations of our trading partners.

This legislation began as a strong, bipartisan trade enforcement bill. It has degenerated into a vehicle for all of the toxic, special interest promises that have been made to secure passage of the TPA. They have poisoned a strong trade enforcement bill with their denial of the climate crisis, with their turning a blind eye on human trafficking, and with their refusal to address the foreign currency manipulation that destroys millions of American jobs.

In terms of the climate crisis, congressional Republicans refuse to acknowledge the truth of the climate crisis. Pope Francis, on his visit here and even before he came and since, has made this climate crisis a priority. It was the subject of his encyclical. He has said that he is praying for the success of the historic Paris Climate Summit.

Faith leaders from the evangelical community and across the board are urging us to answer our moral responsibility to preserve God's creation. It is our responsibility. As God's creation, we have a responsibility to be good stewards of it and to do so in a way that does not hurt the poor and their presentations.

Just look at what is happening in Paris as opposed to what is happening here. In Paris, 195 nations have convened to address the climate crisis that threatens the health of our communities and the future that we leave our children. It is about air pollution. 186 nations have submitted plans to address the climate crisis and the air pollution. 146 world leaders personally attended the conference.

Yet, with this Customs bill, Republicans would bar our trade negotiators from even discussing climate in the context of a trade agreement. You cannot separate climate and commerce. We cannot accept Republicans' willful blindness to this connection and to the reality of the climate crisis.

Our trade negotiations must honor our values as a Nation. America must stand as a bulwark against the atrocity of human trafficking wherever it is found.

In the week that we mark the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in the United States or anyplace subject to our jurisdiction, this legislation allows countries with documented forced labor practices and brutal human trafficking to enjoy the benefits of free trade and full access to our markets.

In the Trade Promotion Authority legislation, we prohibited fast-track

procedures for trade agreements with countries ranked tier 3 in the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report, which are nations with the worst human rights records. That is in the TPA. Yet, in this bill, we weaken that standard, say, for example, for Malaysia and for other nations failing to address human trafficking.

In terms of currency, Republicans continue to allow foreign currency manipulation to devastate the competitiveness of goods made in America, stealing jobs from American workers. The American Policy Institute estimates that foreign currency manipulation has already cost millions of American jobs and threatens hundreds of thousands more in the coming years.

We need strong, enforceable currency standards in our Customs laws. Yet, Republicans have stripped out this tough, bipartisan provision, cracking down on currency manipulation in the Senate bill. It is time to crack down on countries who have manipulated their currencies for years to protect their industries and undercut American jobs. In any trade legislation, our top responsibility must be to strengthen the paychecks of America's workers.

Since I have lost my voice, let us reject this deeply flawed bill.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH), a member of the Ways and Means Committee who is fighting for American agriculture, furniture, and other local businesses.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report.

Right now there are over 120 anti-dumping and countervailing duty cases against China. When China violates the rules of international trade, small- and medium-sized manufacturers in Missouri and across America are harmed. The ENFORCE Act included in this report would strengthen America's ability to identify and go after those who break international law.

One company in Missouri found itself unfairly competing against an illegal product originating from China, but using a fake address. The ENFORCE Act allows this company to now take real and meaningful action against foreign perpetrators.

This spring, as the Ways and Means Committee worked on TPA, there were many constructive conversations about what our trade enforcement bill was going to look like. I am grateful to Speaker RYAN, Chairman BRADY, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. BOUSTANY for their willingness to work with me to get the ENFORCE Act included in this bill. It was a team effort, and the bill we have before us reflects that.

American workers and American products can compete with anybody in the world. When countries cheat, our manufacturers are significantly harmed. This bill helps end those unfair practices.

I urge my colleagues to support the conference report.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, could the Chair tell us the time remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 8 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, by the way, I thank Chairman BRADY for allowing the leader to go out of turn.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his and other members of the Ways and Means Committee's outstanding work on this legislation. I am here to talk about another aspect of it.

Time is short. A temporary ban on State taxation of Internet access is expiring. Section 922 of the conference report aids taxpayers by making this ban permanent.

If the ban on Internet access taxes is not renewed, the potential tax burden on Americans would be substantial. It is estimated that Internet access tax rates could be more than twice the average rate of all other goods and services. Low-income households could pay 10 times as much as high-income households as a share of income.

Congress has passed numerous temporary bans with enormous bipartisan support. Earlier this year a permanent ban passed the House by voice vote.

Section 922 merely prevents Internet access taxes and unfair multiple or discriminatory taxes on e-commerce. It does not tackle the issue of Internet sales taxes. My committee is working assiduously on that issue and making progress.

Studies show that taxes affect Internet adoption rates. As price rises, demand falls. The Internet has become an indispensable gateway to scientific, educational, and economic opportunities. Section 922 preserves unfettered access to one of the most unique gateways to knowledge and engines of self-improvement in all of human history.

I thank the conferees for including this protaxpayer collision. I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill today, which is in a much better form than the bill I opposed this summer. Yes, there are still terrible, extraneous provisions.

Climate is the worst example, but that is actually going to be more of an embarrassment to my Republican friends in the future, that they trotted this out at a time that the rest of the world is working in Paris to try and deal with it. As a practical matter, it is not going to make that much difference.

I disagree with my learned friend, the ranking member. There will not be a

reason that we can't harmonize, for example, fuel standards. There are lots of reasons to do that. The Trans-Pacific Partnership's deforestation provisions will probably have as much impact on fighting climate change as anything that is going on in Paris.

Peru is still troubling. I fought hard for those provisions. As recently as this week, I have been pushing on the administration to do more. It is certainly better than if we hadn't enacted those provisions before. As a matter of fact, that is why we have worked so hard to establish the trust fund.

I appreciate the cooperation of my friend, the chairman, who has worked hard to make sure there is guaranteed funding for the next 10 years, \$30 million a year, when the whole USTR budget is less than \$60 million.

These trade enforcement provisions are complex, they are expensive, they are tedious, and they are hard. It takes money to do it. This provision includes—the legislation that I worked on with Senator CANTWELL—being able to make sure we can do a better job of enforcing it.

The bill is not perfect, but it is much better than what we had this summer. It represents movement in directions that we can all take pride in. There are a number of provisions that make a huge difference for the people I represent in the Pacific Northwest as well as modernizing the Customs provisions.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully suggest that this is a step forward. I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure that it is, in fact, enforced in the future so that we can get the benefits people are talking about.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

I do want to thank the gentleman from Oregon for his very thoughtful, constructive efforts to help us craft the right trade enforcement remedies. Going forward, I look forward to working with you on other trade remedy issues.

I appreciate the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) whose hard work, along with that of the Michigan delegation, enhanced our hand on currency manipulation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come from southeast Michigan, which is home of America's domestic auto industry where we build absolutely the finest quality cars and trucks on Earth. We know our products can compete against anyone anywhere in the world. All we ask for is a level playing field.

□ 1200

Unfortunately, American car companies have suffered decades of economic devastation due to unfair currency manipulation practices from overseas competitors, like Japan, China, and South Korea.

That is why I support this bill, Mr. Speaker. After decades of doing nothing—decades of doing nothing—this bill

contains very strong measures to protect American products from nations that manipulate their currency.

Now, there will be a three-part test that will identify countries that manipulate their currency and, once identified, they must be reported to Congress, and action must be taken.

I certainly appreciate the help of the House leadership as well as the Committee on Ways and Means, because these provisions will level the playing field, Mr. Speaker.

All of us want free trade, but it must be fair trade.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with nothing but the utmost respect for my colleague from Michigan and agree with her on the need to address currency manipulation.

Mr. Speaker, when the Committee on Ways and Means first began considering this bill, it represented a real opportunity to improve our system of trade and eliminate loopholes that allow foreign nations and bad actors to avoid our trade laws. Currency manipulation is the number one trade abuse that must be addressed.

Unfortunately, this bill has become the Christmas tree of the holiday season, and it is being used to put lipstick on the pig that is our current trade negotiations. It ties our negotiators' hands on even negotiating common emissions standards by restricting any consideration of climate issues, and it prevents them from negotiating immigration-related language as well. Further, it weakens existing trade laws designed to prevent human trafficking.

The ribbon on this Christmas surprise is a totally new provision on Internet taxation that isn't even in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means and could have unintended consequences that could bankrupt local governments.

There are good provisions at the core of this bill to help improve our Customs system, but they are outweighed by the political gamesmanship that has made this legislation impossible to support. We have seen far too many other examples of last-minute political provisions inserted in bills over the years, and we risk unintended consequences of these political provisions as well.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), who worked hard to ensure that trade agreements are for expanding trade, not expanding immigration.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means—and I am delighted he is the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means—for yielding.

I rise in support of the conference report of the Customs bill. It has got many provisions within it which I am happy about and happy to support. The

currency manipulation provision is one of them.

I am pleased to be here to be able to say that there were those that had significant heartburn over trade promotion authority. I am one of them. There were two provisions that I so badly wanted to be included within the TPA legislation, because I have a bit of a history of working to keep the immigration components out of trade deals. Congress needs to be passing immigration law, not trade negotiators.

Well, that language is an amendment that is in here in the conference report, along with language that prohibits the negotiations under trade promotion authority on climate change. So we are protected from executive decisions imposed upon this Congress and a usurpation of article I authority by two pieces of language in here: No negotiations under TPA can include climate change under this language; and no negotiations under TPA can include immigration.

Congress can speak to that, but they cannot negotiate that under TPA. That is very important to me. It is important to a lot of people across this country. I am standing here saying thank you to now-Speaker RYAN, who negotiated this with me and others. He regrets that he wasn't able to shake my hand as chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. That is fine with me, Mr. Speaker.

I am happy to shake the hand of KEVIN BRADY as chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, and say to a number of people who had significant apprehension about whether this would come together on all of the language necessary to get support for trade promotion authority, to say to them upon the passage of this conference report here today and the anticipated signature, merry Christmas to all of you who wanted to step down the line to preserve article I authority for the United States Congress.

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), my friend and colleague and neighbor.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support free and fair trade. Where I come from in Houston, Texas, we are an export city. We make a lot of things, and we sell them all over the world, so I support trade.

Let's go back to the year 1898, Mr. Speaker. The Spanish-American War existed then. To help finance the war, Congress taxed a newfangled contraption called the telephone. The war was over. Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders had stormed San Juan Hill before the tax was actually completely collected, but World War I came around, and the tax reemerged.

Mr. Speaker, that war tax over 100 years ago is still on your telephone bill. You pick up your phone bill, and if you have a landline, you are still paying that war tax.

The point being, Mr. Speaker, once Congress imposes a tax, it seems like it never goes away. But, shock, in this legislation, it prohibits a tax that is already being collected in some States. Some States tax Internet access.

This bill does away with that tax. But it fairly allows States like Texas to phase it out until 2020. Good compromise. So let's eliminate a tax on Americans.

Mr. Speaker, don't get too excited. We may be eliminating one tax, but that war tax over 100 years ago that was implemented—still exists. Maybe we will get around to eliminating that eventually.

And that is just the way it is.

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, free trade is enforceable trade.

I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI), who has fought for enforceable trade laws.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report before us. Manufacturing is critical to the Hoosier economy and my district. A study by the Economic Policy Institute found that manufacturing jobs account for almost 17 percent of all jobs in Indiana. That is the highest rate in the Nation. Manufacturing jobs account for 23.1 percent of the jobs in my district, second highest in the Nation.

This legislation will make our manufacturers so much more competitive by eliminating the red tape and removing supply chain bottlenecks. It provides new tools to tackle evasion of U.S. trade remedies and intellectual property theft.

To be sure, I would like to have seen a new miscellaneous tariff bill process, and I thank the new chairman for his commitment to finding a path forward on that. But, Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly urge my colleagues to support this legislation that will help manufacturers in my district and across the country.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan for his graciousness. I rise in support of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015. It is a significant improvement over the original Customs bill, which I opposed.

There are human trafficking reporting requirements that have been added. There is currency language that expands U.S. action on currency manipulation. It codifies the ENFORCE Act, some of the most strict enforcement provisions ever on trade by U.S. legislation. It creates an interagency trade enforcement center. It creates a trade enforcement trust fund. It provides protections for small businesses and bans child and forced labor.

I would prefer to see stronger proenvironmental provisions, but this enforcement bill, trade enforcement

bill is a significant move forward. I am pleased to support the underlying legislation and the conference report. I thank all who contributed to it.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas also has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself the remaining time.

Mr. Speaker, let me first address climate change. It is interesting that some of the people who speak in favor say how regrettable it is that this provision is even here. The gentleman from Iowa made clear why this provision is here. It was an effort to get votes for TPA.

My feeling is, no matter how people voted on TPA, they should oppose this conference report. One of the reasons relates to global warming. It is really disgraceful this provision is here at the same time virtually everybody in the world is trying to address climate change.

I just want to read the exact language. It says: to ensure that trade agreements do not establish obligations for the U.S. regarding greenhouse gas emission measures.

That is the exact language. There is no way to fuzz it over. There is no way to fuzz it over.

Let me just, then, say a word about currency. This conference report deletes a meaningful, very, very concrete way to address currency manipulation. The language here in this conference bill just essentially, in the end, says nothing that is meaningful.

It says: If the President determines there is a problem with a country's currency—it won't even mention the words "currency manipulation"—then the President shall do such-and-such—things he can already do—and there is a waiver for the President if he doesn't want to take any of the steps.

The currency provision essentially takes away what was in the Senate bill, and we passed the same or a similar measure a number of years ago. So that is as to currency. This is very much in the wrong direction.

The same is true in terms of human trafficking. Essentially what it says is: If a country is in tier 3—the worst in terms of human trafficking—and takes some concrete steps, they can still receive all the benefits of a trade negotiation, even if they still have the most egregious conditions in their country on human trafficking, both sex and labor human trafficking. That is really also, I think, worse than unwarranted.

Let me just finish by saying a few words about enforcement. I guess no one has worked, if I might say, more than I have in terms of enforceability. The provisions that we have put in place—for example, those regarding worker rights, environment, and medicines—need to be enforced. The problem with this legislation is, in most of the cases, it really doesn't change anything much, if at all.

As I said earlier, it establishes an enforcement center that is already existing. It renews Super 301. There is no need to do that. The administration has the ability to do that already. It does set up an enforcement trust fund, but there is no appropriation of the money. Enforcement is already under-appropriated. So now we are setting up a new trust fund without any indication that it is going to be appropriated.

This bill is very close in spirit and in language to the bill that almost all of us on the Democratic side voted against. I urge strong opposition to this conference report.

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

□ 1215

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

Expanding trade and giving our American workers and companies more opportunities around the world creates jobs here in America: better paychecks, better opportunities, and a stronger economy for our country. Critical to that is to make sure our trade agreements and trade rules are enforced. That is what this bill is all about.

This bill establishes the strongest enforcement and revenue laws ever put on the books in the United States of America. It incorporates issues against currency manipulation; protections and remedies on a number of other areas within our economy that never before have been placed into effect; and it creates a working trust fund, a source of existing revenue, to focus on enforcing those rules.

It also streamlines the way we do trade in America. That is important as well, because it is important for consumers to lower prices. It is important for our local businesses as they manufacture products to sell and compete both here in America and around the world. In fact, it has been more than a decade since we have reauthorized Customs and those processes.

This is about modernizing it, making it more efficient, more effective, more accountable, all of which helps grow our economy and helps working class families.

As important from our side of the aisle, this fulfills the commitment of then-chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, PAUL RYAN, and our leadership to the Members in the House to make this an even better law. And we have succeeded, working with Representatives KING and SESSIONS on immigration language, to make sure this is a trade-only agreement; working with members of the Steel Caucus—Representatives BARLETTA, MURPHY, DAVIS, BOST, and many others—to ensure that we have strong remedies in those areas; working with Representative MILLER and the Michigan delegation against currency manipulation; working successfully with Representative ZINKE of Montana to make sure there is strong oversight of the Office

of the U.S. Trade Representative and we have more access to negotiating rounds; working with Chairman ROYCE of California on human trafficking; working with Chairman CHABOT of Ohio on small business provisions; working with Mr. CRENSHAW of Florida to ensure that there are trade preferences for Nepal as they struggle in this bill; and working with Mr. WALDEN, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. REED, and Mr. BOUSTANY on key provisions.

I say all that to make the case this is a bipartisan measure. It is thoughtful, it is effective, it is long overdue, and it is important to expanding trade and making that effective here in America. I urge its support.

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

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, we are making critical changes to our domestic trade laws to ensure that U.S. companies compete on a level playing field. Manufacturers in my district have suffered a competitive disadvantage from trade cheaters in China and other foreign countries that don't follow the trade rules we already have on the books.

Unfortunately, there are companies in China who cheat. American companies cannot compete with products that are subsidized by foreign governments and therefore priced below market value. American companies waste valuable time and legal fees bringing cases against unfairly subsidized products that are dumped into the United States. When American companies win these dumping cases, they deserve to have the penalties enforced.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, American companies have not been competing on a level playing field. Those same trade cheaters that dumped their goods into our U.S. markets are adding insult to injury by evading the duty or penalty. When they ship the product from a country that doesn't have a penalty for dumping, they are skipping out on paying the penalty for cheating in the first place.

We need a better referee to level the playing field. We need the penalties to be enforced. That's why I negotiated for the inclusion of the ENFORCE Act in the final Customs Bill and defended their importance throughout this Conference process.

This bill will ensure that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) must investigate cases of duty evasion within 300 days. If for some reason CBP begins rubberstamping these decisions, the company can go to a U.S. court to have the case reviewed. These are critical reforms that are necessary to ensure that American companies are on a level playing field. I thank my colleagues and friends Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. TIBERI, Chairman BRADY, Speaker RYAN, Dr. BOUSTANY, Mr. SMITH, and the Steel Caucus for working with me on this important reform.

Every foreign company wants to sell their goods on American store shelves to American consumers. We must make sure we have the tools we need at the border to prevent foreign trade cheaters from sneaking their goods onto our shelves without paying the appropriate duties. We must protect American manufacturers and American jobs from trade cheaters.

Additionally, I urge support for this bill because of critical protections against misguided attempts to use trade agreements to rewrite

our domestic immigration laws and environmental regulations. While this bill is not perfect, the permanent improvements to our trade laws and the bans on misuse of trade agreements make it worthy of our support.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 560, the previous question is ordered.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the conference report?

Mr. DOGGETT. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Given all the injustices promoted by this conference report, I am strongly opposed to it.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Doggett moves to recommit the conference report on the bill H.R. 644 to the committee on conference with instructions to the managers on the part of the House to—

(1) disagree to subsections (b) and (e) of section 914 of the conference substitute recommended by the committee of conference; and

(2) insist on sections 701 through 706 of the Senate amendment to the bill as passed the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion is not debatable.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. 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 of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 560, I call up the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendments.

Senate amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-53) is amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting "December 16, 2015".

This Act may be cited as the "Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016".

Amend the title so as to read: "Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016".

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Rogers of Kentucky moves that the House concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2250.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 560, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. 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 on the further consideration of H.R. 2250.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present H.R. 2250, a short-term continuing resolution that will fund the government through December 16.

As you know, our current funding mechanism expires today, at midnight. At this point, it is, unfortunately, necessary for us to have a little more time to complete our negotiations.

This continuing resolution extends current levels of funding for critical government programs for 5 additional days, ensuring our government stays open until midnight next Wednesday. The Senate passed this same bill yesterday. So, with approval in the House, this bill will go to the President today.

I believe we are making good progress, Mr. Speaker, on a final, full-year appropriations package. While I had hoped that we would be done by this point, there are still many moving pieces. It is my hope and expectation that the final omnibus legislation will be completed by this new deadline.

Mr. Speaker, I am not the biggest fan of continuing resolutions. They tend to be wasteful and inefficient. However, at this point, I see this procedure today as the best way forward. This continuing resolution is very short and limited in scope, simply buying us enough time to wrap up our negotiations and bring a full-year bill to the floor without a lapse in important government services. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I have a sad announcement to make. On Wednesday morning, the committee

lost one of its longstanding staff, who has been associated with the legislative branch for 25 years: Chuck Turner. We mourn his loss. As soon as we have further details on services, we will provide that information to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in half-hearted support of the continuing resolution before us. While it saves hardworking Americans and our economy from a disastrous government shutdown, it reflects a failure of Congress to carry out one of our most basic constitutional responsibilities.

It has been 2½ months since the beginning of fiscal year 2016 and 6 weeks since we passed a bipartisan, 2-year budget agreement to set the guidelines for appropriations. There is no good reason we should not have passed spending bills by now to keep the government operating for the 2016 fiscal year.

The bill before us today should be bipartisan legislation that makes crucial investments in biomedical research, job training, and national security. The bill before us today should provide relief from harmful sequester caps that are hurting economic growth and families' pocketbooks. Instead, Republicans' insistence on including dangerous, harmful policies in the spending bills has halted progress.

Since the budget agreement, terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino have brought to bear the need for improved security and closure in lax gun safety laws. Yet the majority wants to continue to deny even basic research on causes of gun violence at the Centers for Disease Control, not to mention we should be acting immediately to stop the legal purchase of guns by those on terrorist watch lists, an amendment I have introduced four times in 5 years that has been defeated every time in committee.

The process has stalled because Republicans insist on demonizing legal, women's reproductive health decisions, even putting women's jobs at risk if their employers do not agree with their health choices.

And finally, 2015 is on track to be the hottest year on record, with droughts leading to hunger and wildfires, and rising sea levels threatening to wipe away island nations. Yet Republicans demand measures that harm the environment, put the health and safety of Americans, their children, and the entire planet at risk.

I hope my colleagues will work together in the coming 5 days to agree on appropriations bills that invest in biomedical research, education, infrastructure, job training, and a strong national defense. Together, we can provide opportunities for hardworking families and build a 21st century workforce and a secure America.

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