

and reported a loss in profits due to these problems of approximately \$190 million.

One-third of these firms reported longer lead and delivery times.

In addition, the report further highlighted the particular impact the steel tariff has had on auto-parts suppliers. Tennessee is home to over 950 auto-parts suppliers and they make up about one-third of all our State's manufacturing jobs.

Eighty-five percent of the auto-parts suppliers surveyed said that their steel prices in the US were higher than global prices.

Thirty-one percent reported that customers had shifted purchases to buying finished parts or assemblies overseas as a result of the tariff.

Seventy-four percent reported changes in contract prices for steel and 55 percent reported that steel tariff was the only important factor in these changes in steel prices.

Seventy-nine percent reported an inability to pass on steel price increased to customers.

All of these burdens have meant extra costs to steel consuming firms. Extra costs that have affected steel-consuming jobs all across America. The steel tariff may have saved some steel-producing jobs but it has already destroyed a lot more steel-consuming jobs.

The American economy is beginning to recover and I strongly believe that this recovery is a direct result of the President's jobs and economic growth plan. The last thing we need now is any new cost such as the steel tariff on a major manufacturing sector that slows down economic growth. I fear that if the steel tariff remains that we will see more plant closings during 2004 in Tennessee and across America.

I believe the President has made an honest good faith effort to save steel jobs, but that it has backfired by destroying automotive and other steel consuming jobs. I hope that he decides that the best decision that can make for the American worker is to end the steel tariff.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

MONEY LAUNDERING IN SYRIA AND LEBANON

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, while I support the enactment of the Syria Accountability Act, I am disappointed this legislation does not contain any provisions to stop the scourge of money laundering from Syria and Lebanon.

Recently published reports state that \$3 billion from Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime are currently being held in Syrian-controlled banks in Syria and Lebanon and that these funds may have been used to finance attacks on American forces in Iraq. If these allegations are proven correct, then the actions by the government of Syria are intolerable and unacceptable and demand a

strong response by the United States government to insure that funds stolen from the Iraqi people are not used to help insurgents attack American forces and destabilize Iraq.

Unfortunately, Syria and Lebanon have had a long history of being involved in terrorism and money laundering. The Secretary of State has designated Syria as a state whose government repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism and has provided designated foreign terrorist organizations, such as Hamas and Hizballah, with sanctuary. The State Department in its March 2003 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report—INCSR—has classified Syria as a country to be monitored for potential money laundering.

Lebanon remains one of the more sophisticated and well-capitalized banking sectors in the Middle East. With its tradition of bank secrecy, the extensive use of foreign currency, the influx of remittances from expatriated workers, and a lack of financial accountability and enforcement, Lebanon has developed a financial environment conducive to laundering the financial proceeds of international crimes such as narcotics, counterfeiting and smuggling. The International Narcotics Control Strategy Report—INCSR—has designated Lebanon as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern. The Financial Crime Enforcement Network—FinCEN—has conducted an analysis of the Suspicious Activity Reporting System—SAR—related to Lebanon for the period of January 2002 through October 2003. The FinCEN analysis has revealed 286 SARs that could be linked to transactions associated with suspicious or fraudulent wire transfer activities between Lebanon and other countries. Many of these transactions were structured in an attempt to avoid reporting requirements. Two of the reports indicate possible terrorist activities.

The United States has the largest and most accessible economic marketplace in the world. Foreign financial institutions and jurisdictions must have unfettered access to markets to effectively work within the international economic system.

In 2000, I introduced legislation that became Section 311 of the USA PATRIOT Act which provides the federal government with the authority to leverage the power of United States financial markets to force countries like Syria and Lebanon to reform and enforce their counter-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing laws. Section 311 provides the Secretary of the Treasury with measures that are graduated, discretionary, and targeted, focusing on international transactions involving criminal proceeds, while allowing legitimate international commerce to continue unimpeded.

Earlier this year, I sent a letter to President Bush asking him to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to identify both Syria and Lebanon as pri-

mary money laundering concerns under the authority provided in Section 311. I also asked that U.S. financial institutions be required to provide enhanced scrutiny of financial transactions from Syria and Lebanon to ensure funds linked to international terrorists do not originate from or pass through financial institutions in those countries on their way to the United States.

I also call on the President to develop an international strategy to stop the laundering of funds from Syria and Lebanon within the framework of the Financial Action Task Force—FATF, the European Union, the G-8, and other multilateral forums.

I strongly believe that the United States must take any and all necessary measures to stop international terrorist organizations—such as Hamas and Hizballah—and former members of the Iraqi government who may be residing in Syria, Lebanon, and other countries in the area from supporting terrorist activities in Iraq and elsewhere.

If the United States is to lead the world in the fight against terror, we must effectively use our own laws to cut off the flow of laundered funds from terrorist groups through the international financial system. The measured use of Section 311 authority against Syria and Lebanon provides the United States an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in the fight against international terrorism and money laundering. We cannot afford to fail in this endeavor. •

FUNDING FOR AIRPORT PROJECTS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, maintaining and improving this country's airports and aviation infrastructure is crucial to economic growth and opportunity at both the local and national levels. That is why it is so unfortunate that Congress has not yet been able to pass the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization legislation.

The fact is, this legislation need not have been controversial. But it was made controversial, because conferees went behind closed doors and made changes that contravene the clearly expressed will of both houses of Congress.

My point today is not to rehash the substantive arguments on the points under dispute. I simply want to stress that in no event should this dispute be allowed to bring important airport and aviation projects screeching to a halt. Instead, the responsible path is to recognize that the controversial elements of the legislation may take some time to resolve. In the meantime, both sides should agree to a short-term extension of FAA funding programs, so that no aviation project is held hostage to politics.

Senator ROCKEFELLER has introduced a bill to provide for a 6-month extension of FAA funding programs, and I am signing on as a cosponsor. I hope that our colleagues will join in supporting this legislation, to ensure that