

open and transparent, including through disclosure to the public of documents and access to hearings, and must permit participation by nonparties through the filing of amicus briefs, as well as provide for standing for State and local governments as intervenors.

(9) REGARDING GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY.—No such agreement may contain provisions that bind national, State, local, or comparable regional governments to limiting regulatory, taxation, spending, or procurement authority without an opportunity for public review and comment described in paragraph (8), and without the explicit, informed consent of the national, State, local, or comparable regional legislative body concerned, through such means as is decided by such legislative body.

(10) REGARDING ACCESS TO MEDICINES AND SEEDS.—(A) No such agreement may contain provisions that prevent countries from taking measures to protect public health by ensuring access to medicines.

(B) No such agreement may constrain the rights of farmers to save, use, exchange, or sell farm-saved seeds and other publicly available seed varieties.

(11) REGARDING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.—Any such agreement must grant special and differential treatment for developing countries with regard to the timeframe for implementation of the agreement as well as other concerns.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am resubmitting a measure to help begin to address one of the central problems our Nation faces, namely the loss of family-supporting jobs because of our flawed trade policies.

Florence, WI is a town in the far northeastern corner of my home State. It is just a few miles from the border with the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Like most Americans, the residents of Florence are probably too busy with their own lives to pay close attention to the trade policies of our Nation. But a few weeks ago, a hundred families in that small community got a sharp introduction to the realities of those policies. Pride Manufacturing, the world's largest maker of golf tees, announced that it would be closing down its plant in Florence, and moving that operation and the hundred or so jobs that go with it to China.

That announcement probably wasn't noticed by many people outside of my home State—one company in one small community in the far northeastern corner of Wisconsin leaving for China doesn't raise many eyebrows in Washington or Wall Street. But it is a serious matter for the families whose livelihood is directly affected by the move. And it will certainly have an impact on the community in which they live. Some families may try to stay, but some may be forced to look elsewhere for jobs. The local school district is already trying to cope with declining enrollment and the challenges of a largely rural district. The prospect of losing additional families will only make matters worse. Local businesses that relied on the custom of those families will be hit. Car dealers, grocery stores, hardware stores, clothing stores, every-one will be potentially impacted.

All because a local business is closing down as a result of the trade policies of this government.

We have seen that story repeated across Wisconsin. Our manufacturing sector has been hit particularly hard. And I know Wisconsin is not alone in that experience.

The record of the major trade agreements into which our Nation has entered over the past few years has been dismal. Thanks in great part to the flawed fast track rules that govern consideration of legislation implementing trade agreements, the United States has entered into a number of trade agreements that have contributed to the significant job loss we have seen in recent years, and have laid open to assault various laws and regulations established to protect workers, the environment, and our health and safety.

Indeed, those agreements undermine the very democratic institutions through which we govern ourselves.

The loss of jobs, especially manufacturing jobs, to other countries has been devastating to Wisconsin, and to the entire country. When I opposed the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China, and other flawed trade measures, I did so in great part because I believed they would lead to a significant loss of jobs. But even as an opponent of those agreements, I don't think I could have imagined just how bad things would get in so short a time.

The trade policy of this country over the past several years has been appalling. The trade agreements into which we have entered have contributed to the loss of key employers, ravaging entire communities. But despite that clear evidence, we continue to see trade agreements being reached that will only aggravate this problem.

This has to stop. We cannot afford to pursue trade policies that gut our manufacturing sector and send good jobs overseas. We cannot afford to undermine the protections we have established for workers, the environment, and our public health and safety. And we cannot afford to squander our democratic heritage by entering into trade agreements that supersede our right to govern ourselves through open, democratic institutions.

The legislation I am pleased to reintroduce today addresses this problem, at least in part. It establishes some minimum standards for the trade agreements into which our nation enters. I introduced an identical resolution in the last Congress as a companion to a resolution introduced in the other body by my colleague from Ohio, Mr. SHERRON BROWN.

This measure sets forth principles for future trade agreements. It is a break with the so called NAFTA model, and instead advocates the kinds of sound trade policies that will spur economic growth and sustainable development.

The principles set forth in this resolution are not complex. They are straightforward and achievable. The

resolution calls for enforceable worker protections, including the core International Labor Organization standards. It preserves the ability of the United States to enact and enforce its own trade laws.

It protects foreign investors, but states that foreign investors should not be provided with greater rights than those provided under U.S. law, and it protects public interest laws from challenge by foreign investors in secret tribunals.

It ensures that food entering into our country meets domestic food safety standards.

It preserves the ability of Federal, State, and local governments to maintain essential public services and to relate private sector services in the public interest.

It requires that trade agreements contain environmental provisions subject to the same enforcement as commercial provisions.

It preserves the right of Federal, State, and local governments to use procurement as a policy tool, including through Buy American laws, environmental laws such as recycled content, and purchasing preferences for small, minority, or women-owned businesses.

It requires that trade negotiations and the implementation of trade agreements be conducted openly.

These are sensible policies. They are entirely consistent with the goal of increased international commerce, and in fact they advance that goal.

The outgrowth of the major trade agreements I referenced earlier has been a race to the bottom in labor standards, environmental health and safety standards, in nearly every aspect of our economy. A race to the bottom is a race in which even the winners lose.

For any who doubt this, I invite you to ask the families in Florence, WI who will watch their jobs move to China.

We can't let this continue to happen. We need to turn our trade policies around. We need to pursue trade agreements that will promote sustainable economic growth for our Nation and for our trading partners. The resolution I submit today will begin to put us on that path, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
13—CONGRATULATING
ASME ON THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY,
CELEBRATING THE
ACHIEVEMENTS OF ASME MEMBERS,
AND EXPRESSING THE
GRATITUDE OF THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE FOR ASME'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. SUNUNU submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 13

Whereas in 2005, ASME, incorporated in 1880 as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, celebrates its 125th anniversary as one of the premier professional organizations focused on technical, educational, and

research issues of the engineering community;

Whereas ASME plays a key role in protecting the welfare and safety of the public through the development and promulgation of over 600 codes and standards, including codes governing the manufacture of boilers, pressure vessels, elevators, escalators, petroleum and hazardous liquid pipelines, cranes, forklifts, power tools, screw threads and fasteners, and many other products routinely used by industry and people in the United States and around the world;

Whereas ASME, through its 120,000 members, works diligently to ensure the provision of quality science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education for young people as a way to foster and encourage the advancement of technology;

Whereas industrial pioneers and ASME members such as Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and George Westinghouse helped to build ASME's engineering society even as ASME was helping to build the economy of the United States;

Whereas ASME members help to ensure the development and operation of quality and technologically advanced transportation systems, including automobile, rail, and air travel;

Whereas ASME members contribute to research and development that identifies emerging and future technical needs in evolving and multidisciplinary areas;

Whereas ASME continues to provide quality continuing education programs designed to keep engineers at the cutting edge of technology; and

Whereas in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, ASME members have intensified efforts to develop technologies for homeland security and the protection of the critical assets of this Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) congratulates ASME on its 125th anniversary;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the achievements of all ASME members;

(3) expresses the gratitude of the people of the United States for ASME's contributions to the health, safety, and economic well-being of the citizenry; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the president of ASME.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 15, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on the priorities and plans for the Atomic Energy Defense activities of the Department of Energy and to review the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2006.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 15, 2005, at 4 p.m., in open session to consider the following nominations:

Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil

Works; Mr. Buddie J. Penn to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment; and Admiral William J. Fallon, USN, for reappointment to the grade of Admiral and to be Commander, U.S. Pacific Command.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at 10 a.m., on the President's FY 2006 Budget request for the Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and related programs.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 15, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. to hold a nomination hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, for a hearing on the administration's proposed fiscal year 2006 Department of Veterans' Affairs budget.

The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the subcommittee on Energy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 15th at 2:30 p.m. to receive testimony regarding the prospects for liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the United States (panel 1) and to discuss the safety and security issues related to LNG development (panel 2). Witnesses will be the FERC, the Coast Guard, State authorities, and industry stakeholders. Issues that will be discussed include LNG siting process; risk assessment; and the State and local level's role.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., for a hearing entitled "The United Nations' Management and Oversight of the Oil-for-Food Program."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jeff Muhs be granted privileges of the floor during my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 13, which was submitted earlier today by Senator SUNUNU.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) congratulating ASME on their 125th anniversary, celebrating the achievements of ASME members, and expressing the gratitude of the American people for ASME's contributions.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 13

Whereas in 2005, ASME, incorporated in 1880 as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, celebrates its 125th anniversary as one of the premier professional organizations focused on technical, educational, and research issues of the engineering community;

Whereas ASME plays a key role in protecting the welfare and safety of the public through the development and promulgation of over 600 codes and standards, including codes governing the manufacture of boilers, pressure vessels, elevators, escalators, petroleum and hazardous liquid pipelines, cranes, forklifts, power tools, screw threads and fasteners, and many other products routinely used by industry and people in the United States and around the world;

Whereas ASME, through its 120,000 members, works diligently to ensure the provision of quality science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education for young people as a way to foster and encourage the advancement of technology;

Whereas industrial pioneers and ASME members such as Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and George Westinghouse helped to build ASME's engineering society even as ASME was helping to build the economy of the United States;

Whereas ASME members help to ensure the development and operation of quality and technologically advanced transportation systems, including automobile, rail, and air travel;