

PRODUCTIVITY OF THE 109TH
CONGRESS TO DATE

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, with all of the negative press these days, one of the big stories that has been missed is how productive this Congress has been since the first of the year. In fact, this may be one of the most productive Congresses this country has seen since the Second World War.

Let me go through with my colleagues very quickly the 20 pieces of major legislation we have passed this year and the five appropriations bills we have passed since the beginning of the year.

We passed a class action fairness bill. We passed a highway bill and energy bill and our budget and the Real ID Act, which will strengthen our borders, and a bill for broadcast decency. We passed a continuity of the Congress bill, gang deterrence, funding for first responders, vocational and technical funding, homeland security. We have repealed estate tax for the second time, spyware prevention, bankruptcy bill, core blood registry, stem cell funding, restrictions on interstate transport for minors seeking abortions, job training.

Under appropriations, Homeland Security, Interior, funding for the military quality of life and the Agriculture bill yesterday, plus the supplemental earlier in the year, a tremendous record of accomplishment that this Congress could be proud of on a bipartisan basis because most of those bills did pass with a significant number of Democratic votes.

WITHDRAWING APPROVAL OF THE
UNITED STATES FROM AGREEMENT
ESTABLISHING THE
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 304, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 27) withdrawing the approval of the United States from the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of H.J. Res. 27 is as follows:
H.J. RES. 27

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress withdraws its approval, provided under section 101(a) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, of the WTO Agreement as defined in section 2(9) of that Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG). Pursuant to House Resolution 304, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL), and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 27, the joint resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this morning the House considers the withdrawal of the United States from the World Trade Organization. I strongly oppose this resolution and urge my Members to join me in this opposition.

As a member of the World Trade Organization, the United States is one of 148 member countries. Our role in this global body is tremendously important, not only for the future of the United States trade but for the continuation of global trade liberalization.

As the world's leading economy, the largest economy that has ever been on the face of this earth, we all too often focus our attention on the aspects of trade we disagree with. When Members of Congress meet with our international counterparts, we spend a large amount of time discussing specific trade barriers and little time supporting the broad range of cooperation and successes that we may share.

Continued membership in the World Trade Organization will allow the United States the opportunity to continue cooperating as we work towards free trade benefiting United States consumers, farmers, manufacturers and firms.

Currently, the World Trade Organization is negotiating the Doha Round. Congress has been deeply involved with the administration as the Round continues to move forward. It is tremendously important that we remain active in these negotiations and push for a completed Doha.

Finally, I congratulate Mr. Pascal Lamy of France on his selection as the new World Trade Organization Director General. I am hopeful his abilities will enable the World Trade Organization to balance the concerns of its members. I look forward to working with him in the future.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is my strong view that the United States greatly benefits from our continued participation in the World Trade Organization.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by mentioning that this is a tripartisan resolution, and I want to thank our cosponsors: the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HOSTETTLER), the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. JONES), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENBRENNER), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO). I thank them very much for their support.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have any great illusions that this resolution will win today. When the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) offered it 5 years ago, it only received 56 votes. I hope, however, that as many Members as possible will vote for it today for one simple reason. It is time to send the Bush administration a message and a wake-up call that our current trade policies have failed and need to be completely rethought so that they represent the needs of the middle class and working families of our country and not just the CEOs of large corporations.

Mr. Speaker, international trade is a good thing, if implemented properly, but the evidence is overwhelming that our current trade policies, including NAFTA, including permanent normal trade relations with China, and the current roles of the WTO are not working for average Americans, they are not working for the environment, and they are not working for human rights. If we do not fundamentally change those policies, we can only expect more of the same.

The WTO was signed in 1995, and our current support of unfettered free trade has gone on for some 30 years. And what has been the result of those policies for the middle class of this country? Let us discuss it.

In a period in which technology has exploded, in a period in which worker productivity has significantly increased, we would think that the middle class would be better off.

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But the economic reality today is that what every American knows is that the middle class of this country is collapsing. Poverty is increasing, and the gap between the rich and the poor is wider today than at any time since the 1920s. Are our disastrous trade policies the only reason for this? No. But they are an extremely important part of that equation, and that is for sure.

Mr. Speaker, in 1995 when the WTO was established, our trade deficit was \$96 billion. Today our trade deficit is a record-breaking \$617 billion and is on pace to become \$700 billion next year. Our trade deficit with China alone is \$162 billion.

Mr. Speaker, while some of my colleagues are going to extol all of the wonderful virtues of unfettered free trade, perhaps they can explain why in the last 4 years alone we have lost 2.8 million good-paying manufacturing jobs, one out of six in this country. One out of six in the last 4 years. In my own small State of Vermont, we have lost 20 percent of our manufacturing jobs in the last 5 years. Many people know