

TWO-WAY STREET

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here in strong support of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement, a trade agreement that is a win-win for Illinois farmers, Illinois manufacturers, and Illinois workers that currently trades one way with Central America and the Caribbean.

In Illinois 40 percent of our farm production is exported, where right now under the Caribbean Basin Initiative 99 percent of the Caribbean and Central American farm products enter the United States duty-free, where Illinois corn faces a 20 percent tariff, Illinois soybeans face a 30 percent tariff, Illinois pork faces a 40 percent tariff. And, frankly, with DR-CAFTA we essentially wipe out those tariffs on Illinois products.

When it comes to manufacturing there are 151,000 jobs in my State dependent on exports; and under the current status quo 80 percent of manufactured goods, textiles for example, from the Caribbean and Central America enter Illinois and the United States duty-free while manufacturing goods from my district, apparel, textiles, bulldozers face tariffs of 14 percent up to 20 percent. Again, under DR-CAFTA those tariffs are eliminated immediately.

The status quo is not good for farmers. The status quo is not good for manufacturers because under the current status quo our products going to Central America, exported to Central America, suffer tariffs. Theirs come in duty-free.

Let us make this trade a two-way street. Vote yes for CAFTA. Help manufacturers, help farmers eliminate those duties on our products.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 363 I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present I would have voted aye.

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 364 I was detained on official business. Had I been present I would have voted aye.

Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2005 on rollcall vote No. 363, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, As Amended for H. Con. Res. 168, Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights; I would have voted "yea."

On July 11, 2005 on rollcall vote No. 364, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 333, Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan; I would have voted "yea."

ENSURE AMERICAN
COMPETITIVENESS WITH CAFTA

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in support of the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement. This agreement will ensure America's competitiveness in Central America and throughout the world, benefiting millions of American farmers, manufacturers and businesses of all sizes.

The CAFTA region currently imports \$15 billion annually of U.S. agriculture and manufactured goods. Combined, DR-CAFTA countries represent our thirteenth largest export market. DR-CAFTA will significantly increase exports and boost earnings for American farmers and manufacturers. Upon enactment, 80 percent of U.S. industrial consumer products will immediately become duty-free, leveling the playing field for U.S. producers who have long been at a competitive disadvantage with other countries with pre-existing trade agreements in the region.

The proposed agreement will also take important new steps to protect U.S. firms from unfair trading practices and elevate standards for workplace safety and environmental responsibility. DR-CAFTA legislation will also take important new steps to protect U.S. firms from unfair trading practices and elevate standards for workplace safety and environmental responsibility. DR-CAFTA legislation will be a catalyst for positive change in Central America, broadly opening new markets, supporting stability, and propelling emerging economies forward.

As history has proven, politically and economically stable neighbor nations are vital to our own national security interests.

OPEN MARKET ACCESS WITH
CAFTA

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in support of the United States-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement and the benefits it will provide to hard working farmers in Indiana and all across this country.

Currently, the U.S. market is already fairly open to agricultural products from Central America and the Dominican Republic, but U.S. farmers face a variety of tariffs and other barriers when exporting to DR-CAFTA countries. This agreement will eliminate these barriers, reciprocate open market access, and put American farmers on a level playing field.

More than half of America's agricultural exports will receive immediate duty-free access to DR-CAFTA coun-

tries under this agreement. This agreement will provide U.S. farmers with unequalled access to a large market with growing incomes and a growing demand for agricultural and food products.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support American farmers and support this very important piece of legislation.

CAFTA IS NOT WORKING

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I sit here a bit incredulously listening to my colleagues brag about U.S. trade policy. The reason CAFTA has not come for a vote, even though it has been promised to have been brought forward four times, is because Democrats and Republicans and small manufacturers and labor and small ranchers and family farmers and environmentalists and religious leaders in Central America and religious leaders in this country oppose the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

Why? Because a dozen years ago we had a \$38 billion trade deficit in this country. Last year we had a \$618 billion trade deficit. That has translated into 3.5 million lost manufacturing jobs in the last 5 years alone.

Our trade policy, Mr. Speaker, simply is not working. It may be working for investors, but it is not working for farmers, it is not working for small business. It is not working for consumers and environmentalists and workers and for our communities.

FREE TRADE FLOW WITH CAFTA

(Ms. HART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement.

Upon its implementation DR-CAFTA will allow goods and services to be traded among these countries without tariffs or other trade barriers. Currently, the United States has significant barriers to those countries. Those countries do not have significant barriers into the United States.

The benefits of DR-CAFTA go well beyond the free movement of goods. This agreement will solidify the political enlightenment that has taken place over the past decade in Central America and the Dominican Republic. In the not so distant past communists and generals ruled the DR-CAFTA countries. Today freedom and democracy rule these lands.

DR-CAFTA will continue to enhance these fragile democracies by committing them to free and open economies and create new opportunities for their economies and workers. The agreement

will lead to stability and propel these countries forward, rather than allow them to backslide into dangerous political and economic policies that have hindered other countries in Latin America.

Politically and economically stable countries, especially those in our hemisphere, are vital to our national security here in the United States, and I urge my colleagues to support this very important agreement.

CAFTA MYTHS

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it has struck me as I have listened to the debate here that there are many myths propagated about CAFTA, the proposed free trade agreement between the Dominican Republic, Central American nations and the United States.

One is that we are somehow dropping all of our tariffs across the board. With very few exceptions, the products which CAFTA countries export to the United States have actually entered duty-free for 20 years. By contrast, products that the U.S. has exported to CAFTA countries face steep tariffs.

Currently the CAFTA countries apply an average tariff on U.S. industrial goods ranging from 4.1 percent in Nicaragua to 7.8 percent in the Dominican Republic.

What we are doing here is creating a two-way street for trade between the United States and CAFTA countries. This is a big trade issue for Pennsylvania because merchandise exports to CAFTA countries totaled \$353 million from Pennsylvania in 2004, the ninth largest among the 50 States. And Pennsylvania's exports to the CAFTA region have grown 21 percent between 2000 and 2004.

I sympathize with the concerns that have been raised by CAFTA critics, but if we look at the details I think this is an agreement that we can afford to pass.

HONORING ADMIRAL JAMES STOCKDALE

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I support CAFTA but I am here talking about something both sides of the aisle can support. That is to honor Jim Stockdale.

Admiral Stockdale is a true American hero. He died on July 5. He was a prisoner of war for 5½ years. He was so brutally beaten his shoulders were ripped out of their sockets. He was beaten by the Vietnamese so bad, almost senseless, that Jeremiah Denton had to take over his leadership of the camp at the Hanoi Hilton and of all POWs.

He was then moved in with our Congressman SAM JOHNSON just to recover. It took him almost a year to do that. Admiral Stockdale and his wife, Sybil, who support our MIAs and our POWs we honor here in this body.

REMEMBERING JAMES STOCKDALE

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for letting me follow the Top Gun, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), in giving our thoughts about Admiral Stockdale because Admiral Stockdale represented the very finest in American heroism. When he was going to be pulled in by the North Vietnamese to do a propaganda film he beat himself in the face with a stool that was in his little prison cell so that they could not use him.

He shared for a while a prison cell with another great friend of ours, Sam Johnson, who was one of our wonderful POW heroes and is such a hero in this Chamber.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) for his great service, as a guy who flew into a pack of 28 MiGs to save his wing man and was nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor and received the Navy Cross because he was cut out of the same cloth as that great Admiral Stockdale.

Our very best to the Stockdale family, to Sybil and the kids, and to every aviator who would follow that tradition of heroism and continue to keep our country safe.

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DR-CAFTA

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the world has changed. It is no longer enough to just buy American; we have to sell American. We have to tear down these "America Need Not Apply" signs that are throughout the world and give us a chance to sell our products and our goods from around this Nation that are as good as anybody's in the world.

My frustration, Mr. Speaker, is that the whole world is able to sell into the United States. We can go down the street here into stores and buy anything we want, but too much of the world is cut off to America, to our goods and services, especially from Texas, where we produce good products, like other States.

The Central American Free Trade Agreement reverses that. They have been able to sell into our country for 20 years, and for good reason, to help them move out of communism and socialism. But now it is our turn to sell

our products to Central America. They are not large countries by our standards, but they are large by world standards. They are our tenth largest customer. They buy more from us than Italy does, which is a major economic power. They are a good customer. They can buy more and more of our goods and services.

That is just one of a number of reasons, including national security and winning the textile war against China, that we ought to be supporting the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

SERVICES TRADE

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement. Today, the United States and the five DR-CAFTA countries already enjoy a strong economic relationship. This FTA will only enhance that relationship by opening markets and integrating economies.

Under the agreement, more than four-fifths of total U.S. exports to the six DR-CAFTA countries will receive immediate duty-free treatment. American farmers and manufacturers would benefit from the increased access and competitive advantage that duty-free treatment provides.

But this FTA covers much more than trade and goods. Today, services are an integral part of the U.S. economy. Under the DR-CAFTA, the Central American countries will open their markets to U.S. services companies. In many cases, the agreement allows U.S. banking, insurance, telecommunications, and other services companies to compete in markets that were once dominated by state-endorsed monopolies.

In addition, the FTA will put U.S. service providers at an advantage over their foreign competitors who do not have access to these six growing economies.

I urge my colleagues to consider how CAFTA will benefit U.S. companies and vote to support this very important piece of legislation.

JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS: EXCELLENT CHOICE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last night, the President of the United States nominated Judge John Roberts, Jr. to be the next Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of the United States. I applaud his choice, and I am hopeful that he is confirmed before the Supreme Court begins its term on October 3.