

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3195

To extend normal trade relations treatment to the products of the Lao  
People's Democratic Republic.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself and Mr. MATSUI) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To extend normal trade relations treatment to the products  
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

4       The Congress finds that—

5               (1) the Lao People's Democratic Republic is  
6       pursuing a broad policy of adopting market-based  
7       reforms to enhance its economic competitiveness and  
8       achieve an attractive climate for investment;

9               (2) extension of normal trade relations treat-  
10      ment would assist the Lao People's Democratic Re-

1 public in developing its economy based on free mar-  
2 ket principles and becoming competitive in the global  
3 marketplace;

4 (3) establishing normal commercial relations on  
5 a reciprocal basis with the Lao People's Democratic  
6 Republic will promote United States exports to the  
7 rapidly growing Southeast Asian region and expand  
8 opportunities for United States business and invest-  
9 ment in the Lao People's Democratic Republic econ-  
10 omy;

11 (4) United States and Laotian commercial in-  
12 terests would benefit from the bilateral trade agree-  
13 ment between the United States and the Lao Peo-  
14 ple's Democratic Republic, signed in 2003, providing  
15 for market access and the protection of intellectual  
16 property rights;

17 (5) the Lao People's Democratic Republic has  
18 taken cooperative steps with the United States in  
19 the global war on terrorism, combating the traf-  
20 ficking of narcotics, and the accounting for Amer-  
21 ican servicemen and civilians still missing from the  
22 Vietnam war; and

23 (6) the United States is committed to a multi-  
24 faceted engagement with the Lao People's Demo-  
25 cratic Republic and the people of Laos by continuing

1 to monitor, promote, and encourage further progress  
2 by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic on human  
3 rights, religious tolerance, democratic rule of law,  
4 and transparency, and assist that country in adopt-  
5 ing regional and world trading rules and principles,  
6 as well as international labor standards.

7 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT**  
8 **TO THE PRODUCTS OF THE LAO PEOPLE’S**  
9 **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.**

10 (a) HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE AMEND-  
11 MENT.—General note 3(b) of the Harmonized Tariff  
12 Schedule of the United States is amended by striking  
13 “Laos”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
15 subsection (a) applies with respect to goods entered, or  
16 withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after  
17 the effective date of a notice published in the Federal Reg-  
18 ister by the United States Trade Representative that a  
19 trade agreement obligating reciprocal most-favored-nation  
20 treatment between the Lao People’s Democratic Republic  
21 and the United States has entered into force.

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