

North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) and my colleague the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) to introduce legislation that would impose a moratorium on mergers and consolidations in the ag-tech sector and order an 18-month study of this with recommendations to Congress as to appropriate legislative response.

I will also be dropping legislation within the next few days that will provide farmers in the hog sector with some degree of protection from the vertical integration that has such a devastating impact on their opportunity to continue to raise hogs independently.

What we saw in the poultry sector of agriculture 20 years ago is now happening with hogs. It is estimated that 75 percent of the hogs in this country are marketed pursuant to contracts, not into an open market setting. As we lose the smaller farming operations and the opportunity for farmers to raise hogs, we are losing one of the profit centers that has existed in agriculture.

The word has always been that hogs are the mortgage lifters on the farm. They are the dependable source of income and profit that enable farmers to pay off the mortgages. And without that opportunity, the diversification that is so important in agriculture is lost.

So I would like to urge that my colleagues recognize the seriousness of the problem that we face in the ag sector and that we join together as an institution on a bipartisan basis on behalf of America's farmers to ensure that they continue to have the opportunity to earn a living and be an important part of the rural economy.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for bringing this instructive insight to this discussion.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1801 which makes technical corrections in various antitrust laws and to the references of such laws. I thank Chairman HYDE and the Ranking Democrat, Mr. CONYERS, for the work they did on this legislation to ensure the protection of American consumers. I would like to recognize that this legislation, which among other things, clarifies the application of the Sherman Act to the U.S. Territories, is supported by my fellow colleagues from the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The challenges faced by U.S. Territories are multi-faceted. In many respects, our relationship with the United States stems from the benefits we provide based on our geography. This benefit which helped us become a part of the American family can also be a disadvantage for the development of our economies. Save for Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, Guam is the next most populated territory with 150,000 citizens. We are also coincidentally the furthest territory from the U.S. mainland.

Our population and remoteness has proved challenging in the development of our economy. We have worked to develop a top-notch tourism industry and encourage entrepreneurship amongst our residents. Our focus to ensure a healthy tourism industry has resulted in the construction of world class hotels, such as the Hilton, the Nikko Hotel, and the Hyatt. Our success in fostering at least 1.3 million tourists a year has caught the attention of many well-known U.S. based companies, who have established themselves on Guam. Major retailers like K-mart and Costco, trendy restaurants like Hard Rock Café and Planet Hollywood, and numerous fast food restaurants have found a profitable and competitive home in Guam.

Like many other communities in the U.S. with a similar population to Guam, there is a potential for sectors in an industry to monopolize the needs of a community. It's an extremely complex endeavor to prove, that a company is illegally monopolizing an industry, but it's a topic that is inevitably posed to small communities. H.R. 1801 clarifies that small communities, like the U.S. Territories, will not be the subject of monopolization and imposes hefty penalties for companies or individuals found engaged in such business activities. This is good legislation and good protection for consumers, small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Again, I thank Chairman HYDE for introducing this legislation and encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1801, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to present a question of privilege of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Calling on the President to abstain from renegotiating international agreements governing antidumping and countervailing measures.

Whereas under Art. I, Section 8 of the Constitution, the Congress has power and responsibility with regard to foreign commerce and the conduct of international trade negotiations;

Whereas the House of Representatives is deeply concerned, that in connection with the World Trade Organization ("WTO") Ministerial meeting to be held in Seattle, Washington, and the multilateral trade negotia-

tions expected to follow, few countries are seeking to circumvent the agreed list of negotiations topics and reopen debate over the WTO's antidumping and antisubsidy rules;

Whereas the built-in agenda for future WTO negotiations, which was set out in the Uruguay Round package ratified by Congress in 1994, includes agriculture trade, services trade, and intellectual property protection but does not include antidumping or antisubsidy rules;

Whereas the Congress has not approved new negotiations on antidumping or antisubsidy rules and has clearly, but so far informally, signaled its opposition to such negotiations;

Whereas strong antidumping and antisubsidy rules are a cornerstone of the liberal trade policy of the United States and are essential to the health of the manufacturing and farm sectors in the United States;

Whereas it has long been and remains the policy of the United States to support its antidumping and antisubsidy laws and to defend those laws in international negotiations;

Whereas an important part of Congress' participation in the formulation of trade policy is the enactment of official negotiating objectives against which completed agreements can be measured when presented for ratification;

Whereas the current absence of official negotiating objectives on the statute books must not be allowed to undermine the Congress' constitutional role in charting the direction of United States trade policy;

Whereas the WTO antidumping and antisubsidy rules concluded in the Uruguay Round have scarcely been tested since they entered into effect and certainly have not proved defective;

Whereas opening these rules to renegotiation could only lead to weakening them, which would in turn lead to even greater abuse of the world's open markets, particularly that of the United States;

Whereas conversely, avoiding another divisive fight over these rules is the best way to promote progress on the other, far more important, issues facing WTO members; and

Whereas it is therefore essential that negotiations on these antidumping and antisubsidy matters not be reopened under the auspices of the WTO or otherwise: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives calls upon the President—

(1) not to participate in any international negotiation in which antidumping or antisubsidy rules are part of the negotiating agenda;

(2) to refrain from submitting for congressional approval agreements that require changes to the current antidumping and countervailing duty laws and enforcement policies of the United States; and

(3) to enforce the antidumping and countervailing duty law vigorously in all pending and future cases.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Ohio will appear in the RECORD at this point.