

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF DUTY SUSPENSION AND REDUCTION LEGISLATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce several duty suspension and duty reduction bills for materials used in the production of environmentally sensitive herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides that improve the quality of our lives.

These duty suspension bills lower the cost of producing these products thereby lowering the cost to consumers and helping U.S. industries compete in the global marketplace. When American companies make the active ingredients for these chemicals, there is a proper role for duties to exist. However, when the active ingredients are only made by foreign companies, we needlessly increase costs for American businesses and consumers by imposing duties on their importation. By introducing these bills, I am triggering a careful review of these proposals by the House Ways and Means Committee and the International Trade Commission to make sure there are no domestic producers of these active ingredients so no one will be financially harmed.

Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to highlight the beneficial uses of the final products these chemicals will produce. KN002 and KL084 are used to make citrus herbicides that are less toxic than many of the existing herbicides on the market. They require sixty percent less application to yield the same weed control result thus minimizing exposure to those who apply the herbicide. IN-N597 is used in the production of a rice herbicide. Like the citrus herbicides, it has environmental advantages over the existing rice herbicides on the market. Azoxystrobin is used in the production of a fungicide often used on golf courses. It also goes by the popular name Heritage, Abound or Quadris. DT-291 is a general fruit and vegetable insecticide. It has the unique ability to kill certain pests while leaving beneficial insects unharmed. Furthermore, DT-291 is well within the margins of safety to mammalian, avian, and aquatic organisms.

Finally, Tralkoxydim is used in the production of a postemergence herbicide for wheat and barley. It is also known as Achieve. The Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that Achieve is a reduced risk herbicide. It presents negligible health risks to consumers because it is low in toxicity and does not leave detectable residues in cereal grain, straw or hay. Postemergence herbicides also have the advantage of low application rates. The herbicide is only needed if weeds emerge around the wheat. Many other wheat herbicides must be applied ahead of time to pre-

vent weeds from developing regardless of whether they would have emerged naturally.

Mr. Speaker, duty suspension bills are one of the most non-controversial, bipartisan legislative initiatives because they are common sense for consumers, for the environment, and for enhancing the competitiveness of our domestic industries. I urge support for these proposals after the appropriate committees and agencies have thoroughly vetted these measures.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8196, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, today I cast my vote in support of H.R. 3196, the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2000. However, I did so with great reluctance. Late last night, a compromise was reached to provide \$1.8 billion for the Wye River Accord and an additional \$799 million for other accounts. Many accounts such as the African Development Bank, the International Development Association, the Peace Corps, and the North American Development Bank were provided with more realistic funding levels that will allow these entities to carry out their programs.

However, one of the most disturbing inadequacies of this bill is the level of funding provided for the Republics of the Former Soviet Union. If this bill becomes law, the Republics of the Former Soviet Union are slated to receive \$839 million. This is \$104 million short of the President's request, and \$3 million less than fiscal year 1999. Many of the Newly Independent States are still facing serious economic and democratic challenges, and a few still have access to nuclear weapons. On one hand the people of Ukraine and Georgia recently held successful Presidential elections on October 31. On the other hand, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament were brutally assassinated in Armenia, and Belarus who is inching toward greater integration with Russia frequently suppresses political dissidents by censoring or imprisoning them. Clearly, this region is still very unstable and the United States should make every effort to show our support for these fragile democratic institutions. We also should provide assistance so that countries in dire financial straits are not forced to resort to nuclear arms dealing in order to feed their people. If we fail to provide adequate funding for this region, we jeopardize the security of Americans.

In addition, this bill underfunds the Migration and Refugee Account by \$35 million less than the President's request and \$281 million less than fiscal year 1999. During the previous months, I have worked to include provisions for counseling assistance to refugee survivors of rape in times of conflict and war. As we witnessed during the conflict in Kosovo, many women not only suffered from the act of rape itself, but they must also live with the social stigmas dictated by their culture as a result of being a victim of rape. Without adequate funding for this and other programs, many women and children in need will continue suffering.

This bill also does not provide sufficient funding for debt relief for the world's poorest countries. The Banking Committee just reported a bill, H.R. 1095, that will help reduce the unpayable debt held by many of the world's developing countries. This important bipartisan legislation will help alleviate the suffering of people living in nations with unmanageable debt burdens. Unfortunately, full funding for this vital initiative is not included in this bill.

Furthermore, on July 23, 1999, many of my colleagues and I voted in favor of an amendment to the original Foreign Operations Appropriations bill to prohibit funding for the School of Americas which has gained an infamous reputation for training human rights violators in Latin America. Despite the passage of this amendment by a vote of 230-197, this bill reinstates \$2 million for the School of Americas. Furthermore, this bill eases some restrictions on aid to Indonesia and only prohibits funds from being obligated to Indonesia until the President advises the Appropriations Committee in writing 20 days prior to allocation. This is an outrage considering that 250,000 East Timorese refugees are still held captive in refugee camps in West Timor. Many of these refugees have been intimidated by Indonesian military, and many more are not permitted to return to East Timor.

Mr. Speaker, the success of U.S. foreign policy and programs depends upon adequate funding to administer consistent humanitarian relief to our neighbors and allies who are confronting extraordinary natural disasters, civil strife, and economic and political transformations. Global interaction and cooperation enhances our nation's security. This revised bill goes a long way to ensure implementation of a broad array of bilateral and multilateral assistance programs which directly impact American interests. I reluctantly supported this bill today, because I felt it was irrational to hold up funding for the many worthwhile programs in this bill. However, despite additional funding for several accounts, this bill still contains a number of weaknesses which I hope will be corrected before it ultimately becomes law.

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