

think that this is a small price for the States to pay for the safety of their citizens.

The railroads often argue that the 4.3 cent per gallon tax is unfair, that they maintain their own infrastructure unlike the trucking industry. But I think it even more unfair that the taxes go to deficit reduction instead of a program that benefits the railroads and public safety. That is what RSAFE does. It puts railroad money back into the railroads for the benefit of the public.

In addition, after 5 years of increased investment in grade crossing safety, RSAFE repeals the 4.3-cent diesel tax on October 1, 2004. Hopefully, Congress will continue the higher funding for the Section 130 program in the next highway and transportation reauthorization bill. However, until then, every day that the tax goes towards deficit reduction is a day that statistics tell us someone will die at a railroad crossing. In 1998, 428 people died from an incident at a grade crossing, 30 of whom died in my home State of Illinois. Clearly, 428 deaths in 1 year is unacceptable.

So I say to my colleagues and to those in the railroad community:

Please work with Congressman CRAMER and me to pass this legislation so that each day we will not see another life perish due to our own inactivity and inaction.

CHINA HAS YET TO EARN PREFERENTIAL TRADE STATUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago this week China's Communist dictatorship sent its tanks and armored carriers crashing through the prodemocracy protests in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Hundreds of innocent protesters were crushed to death, hundreds more were mowed down by machine guns, hundreds more were arrested and executed.

The men and women who lost their lives in Beijing and the ones who remain jailed are the heirs to the legacy of our Founding Fathers. They quoted Thomas Jefferson, they built a monument fashioned after our Statue of Liberty, they look to the United States as a beacon of hope and of freedom. In the United States, the nation which the thousands of dead at Tiananmen hoped to emulate, is once again coddling the same dictators who had them murdered by renewing China's annual trade privileges. After all, the lure of one billion Chinese low-wage workers is the catalyst of our China policy.

Think about it: no pesky unions, no minimum wage laws, no labor standards, no effective court system to scare away investors. The potential for prof-

it, regardless of human rights for American corporations, is enormous. After all, Wall Street bankers could not care less if the shelves at the Lorain, Ohio, K-Mart are lined with goods manufactured by Chinese slave labor. The lawyers in Washington could not care less if Chinese workers are imprisoned for trying to form unions.

Win Jingshang, a democracy activist who spent nearly two decades in a Chinese prison, told me that American corporate executives, not Chinese spies but American corporate executives, are the vanguard of the Chinese Communist Party revolution in the United States.

It should bother us, all of us, that exactly 10 years after the slaughter of those demonstrators in Tiananmen Square that American CEO's actively roam the government corridors of the Chinese Communist Party dictatorship. It should bother all of us that after cavorting with the butchers of Beijing, these American CEOs streamed into Ronald Reagan National Airport to argue for continued favors, continued trade advantages for the world's worse abuser of human rights. It should bother all of us that the brutal nature of China's Communist regime is totally ignored by all too many in America's business community.

The harsh reality is that the ongoing genocide in Tibet, continued arrest, and torture of democracy activists, proliferation of nuclear technology to North Korea, none of that matters very much to too many people in America's business community. To this I say, the most effective way to toughen our relationship with China is to deny it special trading privileges.

Every year I and others in this body have prodded the administration and the Republican leadership to force China to improve its behavior before giving it preferential trade status. These benefits give China's Communist Party dictators billions and billions of dollars, last year it was 60 billion to be precise, and the commercial technology needed to modernize the People's Liberation Army. Yet each year the same GOP, the same Republican Members of Congress who are the loudest in their criticism of the Clinton administration and its China policy turn around because of corporate business influence in this body, turn around and give Beijing preferential trade status.

Mr. Chairman, what we need to do before granting special trade status to the Communist Chinese is to condition their behavior on something other than what they say. I, for one, am weary of continued Chinese Communist promises that they will behave, they will play fair, they will stop human rights abuses, they will end child labor, they will stop forced abortions, they will begin to behave, they will stop selling nuclear technology to rogue nations, that they will begin to play by the rules.

It was Mao, quoting Soviet leader Lenin, who liked to state promises are like pie crusts, they are made to be broken.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the administration, I ask the President, I ask Republican leadership in this body, I ask the American business community, all of whom are far too strongly supportive of the World Trade Organization entry for China, I ask them to step back and let us see if China can behave for 1 year. We should demand to see if China can stop its human rights abuses, can stop its child labor and slave labor practices, can stop threatening Taiwan before receiving another dollar from U.S. business interests. We must not give China special trading privileges, Mr. Speaker, until we see proof that its Communist Party leaders are capable of abiding by world standards.

FUNDING FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, earlier today we approved an amendment related to outreach funding for socially disadvantaged farmers. This amendment was offered by our colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), and she is also to be commended. The amendment was accepted by the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN). He, too, is to be commended for his support.

This amendment passed, and the House is to be commended for doing that. Let me tell my colleagues why.

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This amendment permits the Secretary of Agriculture to provide additional funding for USDA outreach programs for socially disadvantaged farmers. Under the amendment, the Secretary may transfer up to \$7 million to this program.

The 2501 outreach program targets small and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The program is carried out by colleges and universities, including the 1890 land grant institutions. With funds from this program, these institutions are able to conduct the vital and important work of training and management assistance. Individualized farm plans, upgrading accounting systems, effective utilization of the vast array of other USDA programs, and the best approaches to applying for credit are but a few of the services available at the institutions and through this program.

Mr. Speaker, while the additional dollars provided by this amendment will be a great help to our small farmers, especially those who are socially disadvantaged, there are other steps that Congress should take to assist the