

Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SMITH OF OREGON, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. Con. Res. 91. A concurrent resolution congratulating the Republic of Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the rule of the former Soviet Union; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2146. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for temporary duty-free treatment for certain semi-manufactured forms of gold; to the Committee on Finance.

LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE FOR THE DUTY-FREE TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN SEMI-MANUFACTURED FORMS OF GOLD

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help our domestic semiconductor industry continue to thrive. The proposal that I am introducing today, along with my colleague from Idaho, Senator Larry CRAIG, merely extends an existing temporary duty suspension for certain semi-manufactured forms of gold. Specifically, the bill amends the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule to extend, until December 31, 2005, the duty-free treatment of gold bonding wire. This product is critical to the manufacture of semiconductors and integrated circuits.

The Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 1996 suspended the 4.9 percent duty given to gold bond wiring classified under Harmonized Tariff Number 7108.13.7000. This temporary duty suspension expires on December 31, 2000 and should be renewed. This is particularly true given that the duty on most other products used in the manufacture of semiconductors were removed during the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations which concluded in 1994. Members of the U.S. semiconductor industry believe the failure to include gold bonding wire in the list of duty eliminations was more of an oversight than anything else. This legislation helps rectify this situation.

The gold bonding wire essential to the manufacture of semiconductors and integrated circuits is unique in its fineness, purity and application. The nearly 100 percent pure gold wire whose diameter measures 0.05 millimeters or less has no other known purposes or uses other than those associated with the assembly of semiconductors.

U.S. semiconductor manufacturers that assemble their products domesti-

cally rather than abroad will be adversely impacted if this duty suspension lapses. A duty of almost five percent on gold bond wiring would increase the cost of doing business for American companies that choose to assemble their goods in this country. We should support, not hinder, efforts like this one that are a win-win for the American labor force and our nation's economy. More hardworking Americans are employed when the assembly process occurs domestically. Furthermore, lower costs encourage more U.S. companies to conduct these activities at home. In the end, this provides a boost to the overall economic well-being of the United States.

This duty suspension proposal lacks domestic opposition and its passage has only a de minimis revenue impact. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this measure. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2146

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON CERTAIN SEMI-MANUFACTURED FORMS OF GOLD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subheading 9902.71.08 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by striking “12/31/2000” and inserting “12/31/2005”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) applies with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2148. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on certain other single yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2149. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on certain other single yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2150. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on certain other single yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2151. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on high tenacity multiple (folded) or cabled yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2152. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on high tenacity single yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2153. A bill to suspend temporarily duty on cobalt boron; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2154. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on ferroboration; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2155. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2003, on

metachlorobenzaldehyde, propiophenone, 4-bromo-2-fluoroacetanilide, and 2,6-dichlorotoluene; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2156. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2003, the duty on textured rolled glass sheets; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2157. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on other yarn, multiple (folded) or cabled, of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

DUTY SUSPENSION LEGISLATION

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, today I, along with Senator THURMOND, introduce a series of duty suspensions designed to permit the import of raw materials into the United States duty free. The materials are not indigenous to or made in the United States. Therefore, their importation will not displace domestic sourcing. Moreover, because of the nature of the products at issue, they will assist in the creation of additional jobs in the United States.

I believe this is the most appropriate use of such legislation. The imported product will not displace any that is manufactured in the United States. Moreover, the imported product will assist in enhancing American productive capacity. I am, therefore, hopeful that this new capacity can be used to supply both domestic and foreign needs and will increase employment in the United States.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2159. A bill to provide flexibility when merited and accountability when warranted in the Nation's elementary schools and secondary schools, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide achievement-based college scholarships to students in failing schools or failing school districts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EXCELLENT SCHOOLS FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN ACT

• Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to address a serious and specific crisis that has occurred in my home state of Missouri.

In October of 1999, the Missouri State Board of Education canceled accreditation for Kansas City's schools, effective May 1, 2000, and gave St. Louis a court-required probationary period in lieu of accreditation withdrawal. Today, 80,000 young people are trapped in these failing urban school districts. It is hard for students to be successful in these types of settings. Both of these school districts receive substantial financial resources from the federal government, yet we are not seeing positive results on our investment. It is time for taxpayers to have accountability so that they know their tax dollars are spent in classrooms to boost academic achievement.