International Economic Policy and Trade Subcommittee, I came to better appreciate the advent and permanence of rapid technological change and the resultant effects on our national security and economic prosperity.

These considerations have persuaded me of the importance of updating the Export Administration Act. I have concluded that passage of S. 149, as reported, is the prudent way ahead both to protect our national security and to enhance our economic prosperity. I am convinced this bill gets it right. The Administration support for this bill attests that it also believes this is the optimal way ahead. I commend the Administration for that because this truly must be a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress must do its duty and act now to protect Americans and to enhance our economic prosperity. Let us act now to pass the Export Administration Act of 2001.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF
HON. STEVE LARGENT
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 17, 2001

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 36, which would grant Congress the power to add an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the physical desecration of the United States flag. This resolution will preserve the honor and respect due to our national flag.

When I reflect on the men and women who fought and died to protect the flag as a symbol of democracy and freedom, it amazes me that any American would purposely want to destroy that symbol. I believe that most Americans feel a sense of outrage at the sight of the flag being burned or desecrated by protesters trumpeting freedom of speech as their shield.

In recent history, our flag has lost the protection it deserves. I’ve noticed a sad pattern for such a heinous act. When I reflect on the men and women who devoted their lives to serve our country and defend it for us, I want the public to have the facts they need about its meaning, its value, or the price paid for our country to be defiled and then we are asked to question whether we have traitors in our midst? We allow honor to be disgraced, should we be surprised developing that we would even permit our flag protection it deserves. I’ve noticed a sad pattern that symbol.

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When I reflect on the men and women who fought and died to protect the flag as a symbol of democracy and freedom, it amazes me that any American would purposely want to destroy that symbol. I believe that most Americans feel a sense of outrage at the sight of the flag being burned or desecrated by protesters trumpeting freedom of speech as their shield. I believe that most Americans feel a sense of outrage at the sight of the flag being burned or desecrated by protesters trumpeting freedom of speech as their shield.

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