wanted to provide allowances, training, job search, relocation, and support service assistance to secondary workers and workers affected by shifts in production. We also ensured that the State-based delivery system created through the Workforce Investment Act remained intact but tightened the program so response times to lay-offs and trade adjustment assistance applications would quicker.

Second, we wanted to recognize the direct correlation between job dislocation, job training, and economic development, especially in communities that have been hit hard by unemployment. In the past, trade adjustment assistance focused specifically on individual re-training, but it did not address the possibility that unemployment might be so high in a community that individuals who have already received assistance could benefit from an inter-agency database on Federal, state, and local resources available to TAA recipients. However, we have established a two-tier system for trade adjustment assistance, recognizing that trade can adversely affect both individuals and communities.

For individuals, the legislation: harmonizes TAA and NAFTA/TAA across the board as eligibility requirements, certification time periods, and training enrollment discrepancies, making it one coherent, comprehensive program; extends TAA benefits to all secondary workers and all workers affected by shifts in production; increases TAA benefits so allowances and training are both available for a 78 week period; provides relocation and job search allowances to TAA recipients; provides support services for individuals, including child-care and dependent-care; increases the time frame available for breaks in training to 30 days; allows individuals who return to work to receive training funds for up to 26 weeks; entities individual certified under trade adjustment assistance programs, to train, and caps total training program funding at $300m per year; establishes sliding scale wage insurance program at the Department of Labor; requires detailed data on program performance by States and Department of Labor, plus regular Department of Labor report on efficacy of program to Congress; establishes inter-agency group to coordinate Federal assistance to individuals and communities; establishes Office of Community Economic Adjustment (OCEA) at Commerce; establishes Office of Community Economic Adjustment (OCEA) at Commerce; establishes inter-agency group to coordinate Federal assistance to communities; establishes community economic adjustment advisors to provide technical assistance to communities and act as liaison between community and Federal government concerning strategic planning and funding; provides funding for strategic planning; provides funding for community economic adjustment efforts; responds to the criticism contained in several reports and creates a series of performance benchmarks and reporting requirements, all of which call on us to gauge the effectiveness and efficiency of the program.

For companies, the legislation: re-authorizes TAA for firms program; for Farmers, Ranchers, and Fishermen, the legislation: establishes special provisions that allow TAA to cover family farmers, ranchers, and fishermen.

Let me conclude by saying that I consider the Trade Adjustment Assistance program to be a commitment between our government and the American people. It is the only program designed to help American workers cope with the changes that occur as a result of international trade. Current legislation expires on September 30th of this year, and it is time to do something more than a simple reauthorization. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 137—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN JOHN HOFFMAN, ET AL. V. JAMES JEFFORDS

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, that the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senator James Jeffords in the case of John Hoffman, et al. v. James Jeffords.