

who usurp worker rights, oppress people in developing countries, and ultimately take American jobs.

Supporters of fast track argue that the U.S. is being left behind. They tell us we need fast track to increase American exports and to increase new jobs for American workers. But our history of flawed trade agreements has led to a trade deficit with the rest of the world that has surged to a record \$369 billion. The 2000 trade deficit is 39 percent higher than the previous record set in 1999.

The Department of Labor has reported that the North American Free Trade Agreement alone has been responsible for the loss of 300,000 jobs in this country. While our trade agreements go to great lengths to protect investors and protect property rights, these agreements rarely include enforceable provisions to protect workers or to protect the environment.

CEOs of multinational corporations tell Members of Congress that globalization stimulates development and allows nations to improve their labor and environmental records. They say interaction with the developing world spreads democracy.

The facts speak differently. Democratic nations such as India are losing out to more totalitarian nations, such as China. Democratic nations such as Taiwan are losing out to authoritarian regimes, such as Indonesia.

In 1989, 57 percent of developing country exports and manufacturing came from developing democracies; 10 years later, only 35 percent of developing country exports and manufacturing came from developing democracies. It is clear that corporations are relocating their manufacturing bases to more totalitarian regimes, where even the most minimal labor and environmental standards are often ignored.

The fact is, Western business investors want to go to China, they want to go to Indonesia; they want to go to countries which are dictatorships, which have docile work forces, authoritarian governments and they are very predictable for Western investors.

They do not go to India, they do not go to Taiwan, not to South Korea; they do not want to stay in this country many times because we have strong environmental laws, because labor unions can organize and bargain collectively, because good wages are paid, and because we have free elections.

Western corporations instead want to invest in countries that have weak environmental standards, unenforced labor law, below-poverty wages, and where workers have no opportunities to bargain collectively.

Flawed trade policies cost American jobs, put downward pressure on U.S. wages and working conditions, and erode the ability of local, State, and Federal governments to protect public health and to protect the environment.

If we fail to include important labor and environmental provisions in future trade agreements, multinational corporations will continue to dismiss labor and protection of the environment as discretionary and wholly unnecessary expenses. Global working conditions will continue to suffer.

We need in this body to press for provisions that promote workers' rights in all countries and promote economic advancement in all countries. The U.S. must continue to be a leader in setting standards for worker rights, for fair wages, for worker safety, and for environmental protection.

In the last year, in this country, we have lost, since President Bush took office, 1 million industrial jobs. We have experienced economic slowdown, and we have experienced a drop in the stock market that we have not seen in a decade. Fast track will not solve that problem; fast track will make that problem worse.

Our Nation cannot afford to sell its principles to the highest bidder. The global race to the bottom must be stopped and turned around.

In 1998, fast track was defeated in this Congress 243 to 180. Fast track should be defeated again in Congress this year.

WITH FALL HARVEST COMES FALLING PRICES IN FARM COUNTRY AND FALLING HOPES FOR OUR NATION'S FARMERS

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, local commodity prices are becoming an everyday story for Kansas farmers and ranchers. Last week was no exception, with headlines like "October Farm Prices Show an Abrupt Drop" and "Farm-Price Index Suffers the Biggest Drop on Record."

Last Wednesday, data showed that farmers' prices were reduced the largest amount in 1 month, 9.5 percent. The decline between September and October is the sharpest month-to-month price drop in 91 years, since USDA began recording farm prices in 1910.

The corn price, \$1.79 for October, was down 12 cents from September. Twelve cents may not sound like much, but for the State of Kansas, that is a loss of \$50 million to the State's economy. Soybean prices plunged 43 cents to \$4.10 cents a bushel, 35 cents below the price just 1 year ago. For the average Kansas farmer who plants about 150 acres of soybeans, that is a 1-month loss of about \$1,500 on his or her fall harvest.

Farmers know that grain prices always drop around harvest time, but even the Department of Agriculture admitted last week that "the breadth of this downturn is unanticipated."

Grain producers were not the only ones affected. The index of meat prices

fell 4.2 percent, hog prices at \$41 per hundredweight declined \$4.10, and cattle prices fell to \$67.50, down \$1.50.

The news of this dramatic price drop is bad not only for agricultural producers, but for all of us who depend upon American agriculture for the security of our food supply. However, to farmers whose grain incomes have grown steadily smaller, it is no surprise, nor is it a surprise when the price continues to drop.

More headlines just from yesterday tell that story: "Wheat Export Commitments Second Lowest on Record," "Corn Sales Lagging." Our farmers want to be able to continue feeding our Nation and others around the globe with the safest, most abundant food supply in the world, but with record low prices and trade barriers hindering the export market, times are tough in agriculture country.

My farmers tell me that they want to get their income from the market to raise prices through increased exports to willing consumers in nations around the globe, yet political barriers distort international trade. And so our farmers need short-term assistance just to continue farming and to pass the family farm to their sons and daughters.

The House has acted to assist farmers by passing the Farm Security Act last month. Now it is up to the U.S. Senate to realize the need for legislation.

Last Thursday, the Secretary of Agriculture stated that she was pleased by the newly developed Senate plans to proceed with a farm bill this session. That statement was followed by the President's announcement Friday of his appointment of a new special assistant for ag trade and food assistance.

The President said that he is not opposed to signing a farm bill into law this year, and the addition to the administration's agriculture team is a positive step to further coordinate farm bill efforts between Congress and the White House.

I am encouraged to once again hear the administration's commitment to farm policy, and I am glad to see the Senate Committee on Agriculture responding by beginning to mark up their version of a farm bill.

I look forward to working together on farmers' priorities: caring for the environment, a farm income safety net, and greater trading opportunities.

With the tragic events of September 11, the battle against terrorism is continuing. Our Nation has many vital defense priorities right now both at home and abroad. However, food security is one of the most important elements of homeland security, and we must not overlook our Nation's farmers before this session ends.

Farmers are counting on us to deliver the promise of a farm bill, and with all that they do every day to provide us with food, clothing, and shelter, we must not let them down.