

to defend our principles, uphold our proud traditions and articulate to the world what America stands for. I urge my colleagues to express their support to Chairman YOUNG to retain the McCain amendment, without modification, in the conference agreement to the FY2006 Defense Appropriations bill.

TRIBUTE TO ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF HARTFORD-NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT AND ARAM "OTTO" BAYRAMIAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished congregation, St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Hartford-New Britain, Connecticut, which is celebrating its eightieth anniversary on November 6, 2005. The Church is also honoring in memoriam Aram "Otto" Bayramian, a beloved parishioner and extraordinary leader.

St. Stephen's is the oldest Armenian church in Connecticut and one of the oldest in our Nation. Armenians began immigrating to the United States in large numbers in the late 19th century when troubles in their historic land, now part of Eastern Turkey, began mounting. They brought their Christian faith with them and began conducting religious services in rented churches. Fundraising for St. Stephen's began in 1912, but it was interrupted several times by world events. The groundbreaking took place in 1925, the culmination of many years of arduous work.

St. Stephen's is honoring extraordinary parishioners during its 80th birthday celebration and the event's special honoree is Aram "Otto" Bayramian, who died in 1996. He served St. Stephen's with distinction for more than 20 years.

Otto's father, Umrah Bayramian was one of the founders of St. Stephen's. Otto, a lifelong resident of New Britain, was one of the most respected business and community leaders in the region. He was a decorated veteran of World War II, flying eight subpatrol and 40 missions successfully, retiring as a Captain in the Air Force.

Upon returning home, Otto joined his father in the family business, founding the Epicure Market in Farmington, Connecticut. It became known as the "gold standard" in the food business throughout Connecticut.

Otto graced the stage of the theatre, including the New Britain Repertory, the Mark Twain Masquers, the Producing Guild, and the Waterbury Civic Theatre.

He was an organizer and Charter member of the Joel Eshoo Post 1 Assyrian American War Veterans which was established in 1946.

His great love was St. Stephen's Church and he did everything possible to strengthen its future.

It is highly appropriate that as St. Stephen's celebrates its founding 80 years ago, that the life of Otto Bayramian and his countless contributions to the betterment of St. Stephen's is celebrated as well.

It is also fitting that the Church's three archdeacons, Aram-Sumpad Khachoyan, Sebouh Asadourian and Edward Varjabedian

are being honored for their 25 years of dedicated service on the altar. The Annual Youth Award recipient is choir member Maral Firkatian, and parishioners Dirouhi Avakian, Mary Boornazian and Susan Shabazian will each be presented with certificates of appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Hartford-New Britain on the occasion of its 80th anniversary, honoring the life and contributions of the beloved Otto Bayramian, and in extending thanks to those being honored at the anniversary celebration.

Our Nation has been enriched by the lives and the faith of generations past, as well as parishioners of St. Stephen's today. We are unmistakably a better community and a more decent Nation because of the Church, because of Otto Bayramian and because of the contributions the Parish continues to make.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with 17 other bipartisan, original cosponsors, am introducing the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act (AMCA). This bill will help our manufacturing companies and their workers in a time of need. Right now, America's manufacturers are facing unprecedented international competition so it's critical that we pursue policies that make American manufacturing industries the strongest in the world.

In order to be competitive on the global market, our manufacturing base has to have access to timely supplies of competitively priced raw materials. Our manufacturers have to sell their goods at globally competitive prices, so they need to get their inputs at globally competitive prices too.

The problem is excessively high raw material prices are hurting our manufacturers. For example, U.S. steel prices are now the highest in the world. As just one example, the price for hot-rolled coil is over \$100/ton higher than anywhere else in the world. When the costs of inputs for our manufacturing base are higher than the rest of the world, it undermines their ability to compete.

Government policies are part of the problem. For example, there are now over 150 different import restrictions covering over 20 steel products from over 30 nations. Some of these have been in effect since the 1980's, and cover steel products that are more expensive here than anywhere in the world. These restrictions can cause large distortions in the U.S. market for raw materials, and can inflict harm on the manufacturers and workers who need those materials to make their products. They hobble our manufacturers in tight markets, and choke off our larger manufacturing base.

However, the astonishing reality is this harm to our manufacturing base is being ignored when decisions about import restrictions are made. The International Trade Commission (ITC) and Department of Commerce (DOC) don't even allow the industrial users any

meaningful participation in the process. Think about this. American companies are directly impacted by these decisions, but they are not even considered in the process. In fact, foreign producers have more rights in this process than our own American industrial users. This is especially disturbing since steel consuming jobs outnumber steel producing jobs by over 60 to 1. This is extremely unfair and unwise.

I testified at the ITC twice earlier this year during hearings on 5-year sunset reviews for duties on hot-rolled steel and stainless steel sheet and strip. Duties on these types of steel had already been in place for 5 years, and now the ITC was required to make a decision about whether they should continue. Companies who need these types of steel testified at these hearings too and provided information about the trouble they have getting the quantity and quality of the steel they need at competitive prices. When a manufacturing company can't get the raw materials it needs, that causes damage to the company particularly when they have to deliver their products just-in-time. Because of these duties, the industrial users are suffering damage.

I also introduced House Resolution 84, which urges the ITC to consider the effects of duties on industrial users during these sunset reviews. This resolution has 48 bipartisan cosponsors. All we were asking was that the ITC consider the effects of these duties on the consuming companies.

When the report explaining the ITC's decision to keep the duties in place came out, I was shocked that there was no evidence at all that the ITC considered the effects of the duties on the industrial users. Nothing. These are American companies with American workers, but there was no evidence the ITC listened at all.

Furthermore, during one of the hearings a representative for the steel industry stated "the Commission is precluded from considering the impact of imports of the subject merchandise on domestic steel consumers in determining whether the antidumping order should be revoked." This person was saying in effect that the ITC is not even allowed to consider the effects of their decisions on our manufacturing base. This is just wrong and it must be addressed to prevent unnecessary damage to our manufacturing base.

Antidumping and countervailing duty laws are necessary and they're in the interest of the United States, when applied in an objective and fair manner, to prevent unfair pricing and subsidized competition. But it's not fair and it's not acceptable when American companies being hurt by duties on imports can't even be considered in the process.

Mr. Speaker, basic fairness and common sense require us to change the law. My bill will address this problem by giving industrial users legal standing to participate in the antidumping and countervailing duty processes. It will require the ITC and the DOC to consider the information provided by the businesses that use these products. This is only fair. Furthermore, the process for imposing duties will remain the same, with the addition of a simple test that looks at the downstream harm. Under this bill, when making decisions on import restrictions, an economic impact test would be conducted by the ITC to determine the net effect on the American manufacturers affected by those decisions. In order for a restriction to