

I am pleased these federal resources will not be used to support the gambling facilities, liquor stores and massage parlors. I don't believe the federal government should help interests that have dubious value to these communities.

I believe gambling is inherently dishonest and am opposed to it in any form. During my 14 years in the state legislature I voted against every gambling bill. Gambling financially cripples those who can least afford it—the poor—through the cruel and misleading lure of “winning it big.”

With the budget deficits growing to historic levels, we need to make sure tax dollars are being used in the wisest possible manner to rebuild the region's businesses and housing.

Fair-minded Americans support tax incentives to spur business reinvestment along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf coast to help victims there rebuild their lives.

Tax breaks for the gaming industry simply do not make sense.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of those communities in the gulf coast region who have been devastated by the recent hurricanes.

However, while well-intentioned, I find today's legislation to spur economic development in the gulf coast region to be significantly flawed in that it specifically excluded a key industry in the area.

Never before in any previous disaster relief legislation, has Congress picked winners and losers. We should not start today.

Businesses on the gulf coast have invested billions of dollars in infrastructure that Hurricane Katrina reduced to rubble in a matter of hours. The gaming industry employs tens of thousands of people in the gulf coast region.

It should be treated equally in legislation seeking to assist the rebuilding of businesses destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The gaming businesses are legal, well-regulated, and publicly traded companies that should not be discriminated against in Federal economic assistance legislation.

Many people in this region lost everything; their homes, their jobs, personal belongings, and the schools their kids attended. It is regrettable that some in Congress are willing to put the hardship of one displaced individual—who may work for a refinery or a grocery store—over another individual's who happens to work in the gaming industry.

This was a terrible disaster and loss for everyone, and Congress today is ignoring that simple fact.

I will not support the Gulf Opportunity Zone legislation today, because I am extremely disturbed with the dangerous precedent this sets.

I will work with our delegation and the conference committee to ensure that the final bill includes equal treatment for the gaming industry—just like any other business in the gulf coast region.

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4440.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4440.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 583, I call up the bill (H.R. 4340) to implement the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4340

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—APPROVAL OF, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO, THE AGREEMENT

- Sec. 101. Approval and entry into force of the Agreement.
- Sec. 102. Relationship of the agreement to United States and State law.
- Sec. 103. Implementing actions in anticipation of entry into force and initial regulations.
- Sec. 104. Consultation and layover provisions for, and effective date of, proclaimed actions.
- Sec. 105. Administration of dispute settlement proceedings.
- Sec. 106. Effective dates; effect of termination.

TITLE II—CUSTOMS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 201. Tariff modifications.
- Sec. 202. Rules of origin.
- Sec. 203. Customs user fees.
- Sec. 204. Enforcement relating to trade in textile and apparel goods.
- Sec. 205. Regulations.

TITLE III—RELIEF FROM IMPORTS

- Sec. 301. Definitions.
- Subtitle A—Relief From Imports Benefiting From the Agreement
 - Sec. 311. Commencing of action for relief.
 - Sec. 312. Commission action on petition.
 - Sec. 313. Provision of relief.

- Sec. 314. Termination of relief authority.
- Sec. 315. Compensation authority.
- Sec. 316. Confidential business information.
 - Subtitle B—Textile and Apparel Safeguard Measures
- Sec. 321. Commencement of action for relief.
- Sec. 322. Determination and provision of relief.
- Sec. 323. Period of relief.
- Sec. 324. Articles exempt from relief.
- Sec. 325. Rate after termination of import relief.
- Sec. 326. Termination of relief authority.
- Sec. 327. Compensation authority.
- Sec. 328. Confidential business information.

TITLE IV—PROCUREMENT

- Sec. 401. Eligible products.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to approve and implement the Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Bahrain entered into under the authority of section 2103(b) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3803(b));

(2) to strengthen and develop economic relations between the United States and Bahrain for their mutual benefit;

(3) to establish free trade between the 2 nations through the reduction and elimination of barriers to trade in goods and services; and

(4) to lay the foundation for further cooperation to expand and enhance the benefits of such Agreement.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term “Agreement” means the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement approved by Congress under section 101(a)(1).

(2) HTS.—The term “HTS” means the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

(3) TEXTILE OR APPAREL GOOD.—The term “textile or apparel good” means a good listed in the Annex to the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing referred to in section 101(d)(4) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(4)).

TITLE I—APPROVAL OF, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO, THE AGREEMENT

SEC. 101. APPROVAL AND ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT.

(a) APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT AND STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.—Pursuant to section 2105 of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3805) and section 151 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2191), Congress approves—

(1) the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement entered into on September 14, 2004, with Bahrain and submitted to Congress on November 16, 2005; and

(2) the statement of administrative action proposed to implement the Agreement that was submitted to Congress on November 16, 2005.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT.—At such time as the President determines that Bahrain has taken measures necessary to bring it into compliance with those provisions of the Agreement that are to take effect on the date on which the Agreement enters into force, the President is authorized to exchange notes with the Government of Bahrain providing for the entry into force, on or after January 1, 2006, of the Agreement with respect to the United States.

SEC. 102. RELATIONSHIP OF THE AGREEMENT TO UNITED STATES AND STATE LAW.

(a) RELATIONSHIP OF AGREEMENT TO UNITED STATES LAW.—

(1) UNITED STATES LAW TO PREVAIL IN CONFLICT.—No provision of the Agreement, nor