

Plainly and simply, as we work to build more fuel-efficient autos, we will expand opportunities for new manufacturing jobs that become part of the green jobs supply chain.

Again, this manufacturing strategy must include rigorous trade enforcement.

I am struck by the chorus of voices from editorial boards and from the conventional wisdom think-tanks that warn against creeping protectionism. Safe to say, none of these editorial writers and none of these think-tank academicians have ever lost their job because of trade agreements or ever lost their job because of unfair trade practices.

These think-tank academicians and these editorial board members are confusing protectionism with pragmatism. Utilizing trade remedies under limited circumstances, as the President did, as provided for under international trade rules, is not protectionism. It is simply enforcing the law. Enforcement of trade remedy laws consistent with WTO rules, again, is not protectionism.

Most Americans recognize that trade plays an important roll in creating opportunities for economic growth. But when our trade deficit is bumped up against \$2 billion a day for much of the last several years—we buy \$2 billion more in products than we sell abroad, about a third of that bilaterally with China alone—you know something is not working.

American workers and businesses have an entrepreneurial spirit and can compete with anyone. They also need to look to new markets to sustain economic growth. American workers can compete with anyone, but they must rely on this government to enforce fair trade practices. Done right, a national manufacturing policy can reinvest in our workers' capacity to build next-generation technologies and can rebuild the next generation of middle-class families.

One thing is certain: It is time to invest in the workers and the communities that are the backbone of our middle class.

I yield the floor.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BALL HOMES

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I read with great interest a recent article published in the Lexington Herald-Leader, retracing the 50 years of hard work that Don and Mira Ball have put into making their business the largest provider of new homes in central Kentucky. On top of their success in business, Don and Mira should be commended for the good work they have done on behalf of their community. They have supported several community initiatives, including the Hope Center that helps at-risk and homeless individuals get the stability and the help they need to improve their lives. I am proud to have joined them in support of this and other efforts for the

good of everyone in their city and surrounding region.

I know all of my colleagues will join me in recognizing Don and Mira for all they have done for the Lexington community, and for 50 years of Ball Homes.

I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Aug. 9, 2009]

#### HOMESELLER: BALL HOMES IS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS (By Melissa Nipper)

Now Central Kentucky's largest home builder, Ball Homes was incorporated in 1959 by Don and Mira Ball. Today, the company is still family owned and operated by Don and Mira and their three children. Ray Ball is the president, and siblings Mike Ball and Lisa Ball Sharp serve as vice presidents.

Ball Homes has built thousands of affordable houses in Kentucky neighborhoods over the last five decades. Every year since 1998, BUILDER magazine has named Ball Homes one of the top 100 builders of single-family homes in the nation.

While the Ball name is usually associated with home building, the family is also deeply ingrained in the community, supporting organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Hope Center, Virginia Place and many others. Many of their efforts promote home ownership, helping people overcome obstacles to the American Dream.

"We are glad that our children see the value of the family business and that what we do is not just to make a living," Mira said. "We are building affordable homes that people can be proud of. We love this community, all of us do, and I don't think there's a better place to be."

#### A STRONG FOUNDATION

Don and Mira met while attending the University of Kentucky. Don was a pre-law student and worked part time distributing brochures for a builder. The couple married in 1955 and four years later started their business. They share fond memories of the early days.

"I remember when Don had his real estate license, we moved 13 times in two and a half years," Mira said. "We would find a house that was marketable, fix it up, sell it and buy a new one. That enabled us to get started. Don used to say that our furniture was on wheels."

Ball Homes started targeting the first-time home buyers and over the years evolved into a company that builds for the "total market," Mira said.

"I guess the biggest change is, back then we were building houses for \$10,950," Don said. "Now the lots cost more than that."

One thing that hasn't changed is that Ball Homes has always been a family affair. Don and Mira never pushed the home-building business on their children. But from his earliest days, Ray remembers coming to the office with his parents. And of course, there were always summer jobs to be had for the Ball siblings.

"I think (the family business) says a lot about the way our parents raised us," said Lisa, who focuses on Ball Homes' sales, marketing and customer relations. "They weren't in any way overpowering, but they gave us moral lessons and giving back to the community was just inherent in the way they live."

#### A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

So how does a builder remain successful for five decades—throughout a continuously

evolving market, constant changes in technology and even during economic downturns and recessions?

Like all businesses, Ball Homes has had its share of challenges. The toughest time for the company was in the 1980's, when mortgage interest rates soared to 22 percent. The family had to develop creative products and financing to weather the hard times. "And of course, it helped us that that period was a relatively short duration," Don said.

The family has never been afraid to try new ideas and adapt to the marketplace. In the early 1990s, Ball Homes expanded its product line, offering more styles of homes in a wider variety of price ranges.

They also stretched their base into surrounding communities of Versailles, Paris, Richmond, and Frankfort. The company also builds in Louisville, and in 2008 was ranked Louisville's No. 1 home builder by BUILDER magazine.

In recent years, the builder has incorporated energy-efficient materials and technology into all of its homes. New Ball Homes meet Energy Star qualifications. (The Energy Star designation signifies that a home meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

"People may say they don't build (homes) like they used to," Mira said. "Well, today we do so much more with energy efficiency and we build them better than we used to."

Ball Homes has several ongoing projects, including the Chilesburg community which features a six-home model village where home buyers can see a variety of floor plans and amenities in one location.

They recently opened another model home village at their newest development, Glasford. Located in Lexington on the outer loop of Man O' War Boulevard between Tates Creek and Nicholasville roads, Glasford offers 30 floor plans and many luxury options, including beautiful tilework, built-in book cases and crown molding, chair rail and wainscoting packages in formal living and dining rooms.

#### A BRIGHT FUTURE

Innovative products, careful planning and great employees helped make Ball Homes what it has become over the past 50 years. However, Ball family members say their success and future depend on the most important component of their business—the customers, many of whom are living in their second and even third-generation Ball Home.

"One of the keys to our success in the environment is that we are recognized as a company that has been here many years, and we will remain here," Ray said. "We just try to take care of the customer and offer a good product in good locations."

#### COMMENDING JIM WILLIAMS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim Williams, the director of communications of one of Kentucky's most storied racetracks, Keeneland in Lexington. After 38 years at the forefront of Kentucky's racing community, Mr. Williams has left a legacy worthy of the champion thoroughbred horses who have won there, and the entire State wishes him well as he retires from the job he loves.

Keeneland racetrack is located in the beautiful Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Since 1936 Keeneland has operated two meets per year, every April and October. For nearly 40 of those years, Mr. Williams has helped transform what was once a small racetrack