high spirit of bipartisanship and put America's trade agreements on the right track by preserving Congress's legislative role; require negotiators to install provisions that will promote workers' rights, and require negotiators to develop trade rules that cannot undercut environmental laws.

We must do whatever we can to recapture the accountability entitled to the American people. The first step in doing that is to defeat fast track. I urge all of my collogues on both sides of the aisle to vote down this bill.

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

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMEMORATING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Alliance for Community Media. This is a nonprofit organization which was founded in 1976 to provide access to voices and opinions that otherwise would not be heard. The alliance promotes this idea through public education, progressive legislation, regulatory outreach, coalition building, and grassroots organizing.

The alliance's primary goal is to educate and advocate on behalf of the community at large. It works with the Federal Communication Commission, Congress, State legislatures, State regulatory agencies, and other partners to ensure that all people, regardless of race, gender, disability, religion or economic status, have access to available technology to express their opinions, to express their views.

In my congressional district back in Chicago and in the western suburbs, I use extensively this media to reach out to my constituents. We do a program called Hotline 21, where citizens can call in and voice their opinions and get answers to their questions. That is a 30-minute one. We do another one that is an hour where individuals come in and talk about public issues, public policy directors, notions, concepts and ideas. As a matter of fact, the group of community producers, individuals who have their own shows, who have learned how to use technology, how to use cameras, as a matter of fact, they have built up quite a following; and everybody knows that whatever it is that they want to get out, they can get it out through this media.

So I again commend the Alliance for Community Media, congratulate them on their 25th year anniversary; and I also congratulate their executive director, Bunnie Riedel, and her associates for having done an outstanding job and for having helped to keep alive the notion that as people talk and interact, share notions, ideas and concepts that really binds us closer together as a Nation, it helps to promote the concepts of democracy and it helps to make America a stronger, more open, more productive Nation.

SUPPORTING THE BIPARTISAN TRADE PROMOTION ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bipartisan trade promotion Act of 2001 and encourage my colleagues in the House to support its passage when we take that crucial vote this week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK).

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I come to the floor this evening with a plea for the people of the district I represent. When the House votes Thursday to grant the President Trade Promotion Authority, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

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The district I represent sits on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Millions of dollars' worth of goods pass through these waters every day, both from domestic sources and from our trading partners abroad.

The Commonwealth of Virginia is home to four State-owned ports, the Newport News Marine Terminal, the Norfolk International Terminals, the Portsmouth Marine Terminal and the Virginia Inland Port in Warren County, Virginia. At these ports, importers and exporters find an intricate transportation network, bringing maritime commerce together with road and rail transport. This network allows the goods brought into the ports to reach two-thirds of the American population within 24 hours. If a country or foreign company wants to do business with Americans, they will no doubt deal with the ports of Virginia at some point.

For this reason, the upcoming vote on Presidential Trade Promotion Authority is vital to the people of Virginia's Second District and for all Americans. On Thursday, we will consider granting the President Trade Promotion Authority to negotiate new trade agreements with foreign nations. It is the first step in gaining access to foreign markets for our economy and to open doors to other countries for similar access. This measure has a great impact on the residents of the district I represent because we live where the effects of trade are most evident.

When trade increases, more ships and barges come into these ports, packed with containers and creating the need for more people to handle these goods and ensure their safe transport to communities across the country.

Equally important is the impact that the trade has on the rest of the country. Increasing trade by removing trade and investment barriers benefits all Americans in the checkout line, giving them a wider choice of goods at better prices. Thousands of U.S. manufacturing jobs depend on exports, and TPA will open more foreign markets for these products, and American farmers will benefit as more markets open for their goods.

When the lack of free trade agreements makes our wages lower and makes goods cost more, this is a tax. The fact that America is party to only a few trade agreements amounts to an invisible tax on the American people and holds back American prosperity. American exports are burdened by harsh tariffs, making those goods less competitive in foreign markets and hindering the success of American companies. Similarly, the lack of imports gives Americans access to fewer competitive choices, forcing them to pay higher prices at the checkout register.

The free trade agreements that America has entered into have been shown to benefit the economy and workers. Exports to Canada and Mexico have more than doubled since NAFTA was enacted in 1974. Higher exports translate directly into more business for American companies and more jobs for American workers.

The last time trade promotion authority for America was in place was in 1994. Since that time, the United States has not enacted a single free trade agreement with any Nation. This sends a signal to our potential trading partners that when TPA is not in effect, America is either not able to negotiate effective agreements or simply is not willing.

But we can send an equally strong signal to our potential trading partners on Thursday by telling them that we are ready to broker trade deals and we have the tools to do so efficiently. This vote will help us reaffirm America's role as the leader in international trade in order to bring better jobs and more business to America.

Naysayers will argue that Trade Promotion Authority should not be granted until it is guaranteed that we will impose labor and environmental standards on the countries with which we deal. We must remind ourselves that these agreements are with nations as sovereign as our own. We would disapprove of a country who required our Nation's factories to meet environmental standards or pay employees particular wages. Environmental and labor concerns are certainly causes worthy of our efforts, but attaching unnecessarily strict regulations to trade

agreements only breaks down agreements and blocks access for American companies and consumers.

Experience has proven that free and fair trade gives way to higher environmental and labor standards abroad. As foreign economics grows as a result of trade liberalization, governments have a greater desire and greater means to enforce labor laws and environmental protection initiatives from within.

Perhaps the most important result of Trade Promotion Authority is that America will be able to increase its most valuable export, the ideals of freedom and democracy. Free and open trade allows other countries to see the benefits of capitalism and democracy. As President Bush has said, ''Economic freedom creates habits of liberty. And habits of liberty create expectations of democracy.''

Our vote on Thursday will send a message to our potential trading partners. I hope we do not send the message that Congress does not stand behind our President and that Congress wants to build up barriers to free trade. Rather, I hope that we can pass Trade Promotion Authority and send the message that America stands united, ready to do business, and ready to trade.

Our economy is now at a crossroads. We can take the road that leads to increased isolationism and give up hope of creating new global trade alliances, or we can choose to take the road that leads to increased trade, better American jobs, and a better standard of living for America and our trading partners.

I hope my colleagues will join me in ensuring that we travel down the path that leads to more opportunities and economic freedom for all of our citizens by supporting Presidential Trade Promotion Authority.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding to me and for bringing this forum together for the discussion of an issue truly vital to Indian farmers, and congratulate the gentleman from Virginia for his leadership on behalf of agriculture and trade.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of America's farmers and ranchers, particularly those serving eastern Indiana. Every evening they leave their sweat in the fields to ensure the good health and well-being of their fellow Hoosiers. They do so much for Indiana, and this Congress can do so much for them by simply granting the President desperately needed trade negotiating power.

Mr. Speaker, trade already benefits Indiana. Hoosiers exported an estimated $1.5 billion in agricultural goods in the year 2000. These exports helped boost farm prices and income while supporting 24,000 jobs on and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. The numbers are truly staggering in Indiana alone: Soybeans and products, $543 million; feed grains and products, $470 million; live animals and red meats, $107 million; wheat and products, $69 million; and poultry and products, $55 million. An estimated $1.5 billion just from the 92 counties of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, world demand for these products is increasing, but so is competition among our various and diverse trading partners. The reality is if Indiana's farmers and food processors are to compete successfully for opportunities ushered in by the 21st century, they need free trade and open access to growing global markets.

Let us quickly examine previous trade agreements and how they have assisted my home State. As the Nation's sixth largest corn producer, Indiana benefited directly under the North American Free Trade Agreement when Mexico converted its import licensing system for corn to a transitional tariff rate quota. Under this system, the volume of U.S. corn exports to Mexico has nearly tripled since 1994, reaching 197 bushels valued at $486 million in the year 2000. Additionally, under NAFTA, Mexico eliminated import licensing and is phasing out tariffs for wheat all together. Wheat exports to Mexico have doubled from Indiana since 1994.

Mr. Speaker, the Uruguay Round agreement has also benefited Indiana in its capacity as America's fourth largest soybean producer. South Korea continues to reduce its tariffs on soybean oil, a process that has already supported a threefold increase in our export volume. The Philippines is doing the same for soybean meal.

So, Mr. Speaker, you can see that our existing trade agreements have truly benefited Indiana and the entire United States. So why do we need additional trade agreements in the form of TPA to help our Nation's farmers and ranchers? Let me offer a few reasons.

Number one, exports are the lifeblood of American agriculture. Without Presidential Trade Promotion Authority, we risk losing our existing share of foreign markets to other competitors.

Second, with TPA, we can begin in earnest with a round of WTO talks where the greatest gains will be made in agricultural trade.

Third, the only way to fix the problems that have emerged under existing agreements is to use the credibility of Trade Promotion Authority with the President of the United States at the negotiating table.

Additionally, growth in purchases of U.S. food and agricultural products is most likely to come from the 5.9 billion people who live outside of the United States of America. If we do not supply their needs, Mr. Speaker, someone else will.

Fifth, economic studies show that the most significant growth in demand for agricultural products is in societies with emerging middle classes. Middle-class families spend an increasing portion of discretionary income on food. The next decade is expected to usher in 250 million Indians and 200 million Chinese to the level of middle class. These markets will be the strongest for growth in commercial food demand.

Also, some of the highest growth in food demand is occurring in Asia. Only with Presidential Trade Promotion Authority can we tear down the barriers and eliminate tariffs in that region to maximize our economic opportunities.

Additionally, other countries are moving forward without us. The European Union, Mexico, Canada, and Latin America are negotiating new free trade agreements that do not include the United States. There are 130 agreements that exist today, and only two of them include the United States of America.

Allow me to repeat that again, Mr. Speaker. There have been, over the last decade, been negotiated worldwide with our competitors in agriculture and elsewhere, 130 trade agreements, of which the United States is party to 2.

Also, world agriculture tariffs today average about 62 percent, while U.S. tariffs average 12 percent. Trade Promotion Authority and other trade agreements can only eliminate foreign barriers such as this.

Ninth, other countries are more likely to agree to WTO negotiations pertaining to strengthening world prices if the President is armed with Presidential Trade Promotion Authority.

And last, Mr. Speaker, this Congress can no longer afford to stand idly by while other nations' governments improve trading opportunities for their citizens and their industries and their agricultural sector. Leadership and action by Congress must no longer be delayed. Congressional passage of Presidential Trade Promotion Authority is absolutely essential, and I hope that Congress will do so this week.

And let me say I support Trade Promotion Authority to assist Hoosier farmers. I urge my colleagues to help their farmers as well. But also, Mr. Speaker, and I say this somewhat in jest but in a great deal of seriousness, I believe that this President has earned the confidence of the American people in the days of the fall of 2001. Trade Promotion Authority for the President of the United States asks one simple question: Do you trust the President of the United States at the trade negotiating table to put American agriculture, to put American interests, to put American jobs first?

Well, I, Mr. Speaker, today do not believe I am in the minority when I say that I trust the President of the United States of America to put American jobs, American interests, and American agriculture first. I trust President George W. Bush, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join those many millions of Americans who have found this President truly trustworthy and give him the authority he needs to advance our interest in agriculture and for our entire economy by adopting Trade Promotion Authority.

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Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his eloquent remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER).

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for putting together this opportunity tonight for us to talk about Trade Promotion Authority. We know that is going to be coming up later this week; and so the information, and there has been a lot of disinformation, I think we heard some of that during the 5-minute Special Orders tonight, disinformation that is being put out into the idea marketplace.

Trade Promotion Authority has been much discussed over the last few weeks, anticipating this vote that we are going to have later this week; and I would like to share a little information about how Trade Promotion Authority will benefit not only Idaho, but our 49 sister States as well.

Let me start with something I know best. Idaho is the world's foremost producer and processor of potatoes. We plant over 380,000 acres a year, and we yield well over 100 million hundred weight as a result of those plantings. Most of those potatoes are processed into products which find themselves into the marketplace and restaurants throughout the world.

Idaho potatoes dominate almost every market they have ever gone into. I traveled to some 80 foreign countries and opened many McDonald's throughout the world with the JR Simplot Company because we had the best potatoes in the world, and those best potatoes came from Idaho.

One of those markets that I was part of opening up was in Chile. Today, as a result of our inability to get a seat at that negotiating table, Canada and Chile came together and put together a trade agreement. Idaho no longer shares in that market because that agreement, when we did not have a seat at that table, pushed the Idaho potatoes out of the market.

What concerns me even more than the fact that we are losing some of these markets to some of our foreign competitors is the fact that we are now starting to lose situs for some of our best processors, some of the best processors in the world, some of them historically proven since Birds Eye first discovered how to freeze and then reconstitute products, adding portability and shelf life to some of the best vegetable products throughout the world, and that happened in the early part of the last century.

Some of these best products and their processors are now reducing the size of their plants in the United States south of the Canadian border and are actually expanding some of their potential to be in these foreign markets in plants in Canada, and the result is because Canada has Trade Promotion Authority and they have a seat at the table that they can go to the markets throughout the world and negotiate trade agreements.

Idaho's wheat producers is another example. They are also suffering from our inability to enter into new agreements. The Idaho National Wheat Growers for that purpose and that purpose only are supporting the passage of Trade Promotion Authority. We have documented evidence of how trade has benefited our farmers.

Since the passage of NAFTA, U.S. farm exports to Mexico have doubled. The more trade agreements we enter into, the more food we can sell, because 90 percent of the world's people live outside of the United States. Ninety percent of the mouths that sit down to that plate every night, three times a day, 90 percent of those plates are served in other parts of the world, not the United States. If we are not going to be part of those agreements, if we are not going to have a seat at that table, to whom are we going to be able to sell the increased production that we have from our farms?

The U.S. only consumes about two-thirds of what American farmers always produce because they are the best and most prolific in the world. Without our foreign markets, already depressed prices could be much lower. We need foreign markets to maintain our current production and to increase our market potential in the future. Because the United States has more productive farmers in the world, other nations maintain extensive subsidies and trade barriers and trade walls. The average American agriculture tariff is 3 percent, whereas in Europe it is 15 percent; and worldwide the average is well over 40 percent.

In addition, the European Union maintains export subsidies of up to 75 percent greater than those that we have in America. Passing the Trade Promotion Authority, giving our President the opportunity to sell our wares, to strut our stuff throughout the world will help further our national goals by allowing the President to sit down and negotiate these deals. We will be able then to eliminate trade barriers, and our products will increase our exports and be able to reduce the export subsidies throughout the world.

Let me share some of the state barriers that our farmers all over the United States currently face. In Australia, a monopoly wheat board now sets the price of wheat. American farmers are therefore priced out of one of the most important markets in the world. In Canada, a monopoly wheat board also competes against the United States in world markets.

Mr. Speaker, passing the Trade Promotion Authority would speed the negotiations to remove these wheat boards from their position of power and monopolistic predatory practices in the world marketplace. Idaho is the fifth largest spring wheat producer in the country, and I would not promote Trade Promotion Authority if I were not certain it would benefit our farmers.

China currently imposes restrictions on which varieties of apples, of which Idaho is one of the best producers, that they can import into their country. Currently only three varieties can be imported into China, and the two versions that are actually favored by the Chinese consumer cannot be brought in because of trade barriers. With Trade Promotion Authority, we could negotiate an end to these barriers and benefit our apple farmers.

Similarly, Taiwan maintains a 40 percent tariff on apples and that needs to be reduced and could be through the passage of Trade Promotion Authority.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on; but I would simply like to demonstrate for this House and for those who are listening, Idaho's director of agriculture, Mr. Takasugi, has prepared ''Idaho Trade Issues: An Action Plan.'' This was produced earlier this year. As the Lieutenant Governor of Idaho, I led trade missions throughout the world. I visited some 80 foreign country. Mr. Takasugi went with me to many of those. We were able to break down barriers because we were sitting at the table when we had the opportunity to overcome some of the differences we had with some of these foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker, this is a 54-page booklet that itemizes every trade barrier that Idaho and Idaho's farmers face in every country of this world, and I would like to provide this booklet to any Members who do not believe that passing Trade Promotion Authority to the President would not be a valuable asset for this country and its economy and the producers.

Some may say Idaho is a small State and we have nothing to gain from Trade Promotion Authority and that it is actually a coastal issue; and I am saying nothing could be further from the truth. Last year, Idaho's exports alone were $826 million. That may not sound like an awful lot to a lot of folks; but my 1,285,000 people thought that $826 million in sales to foreign countries was terribly important. A lot of families are able to provide for themselves and provide for their future because of that $826 million.

Let me break it down: $303 million was potatoes and other vegetables; $151 million in wheat products, $98 million in livestock; $54 million in dairy products; and $51 million in feed products.

More than 12,000 Idaho jobs depend upon exports. As I said earlier, our ability to process this food into a portable and into a storable product is one of the things that has got us into these foreign markets.

I am also aware of the concerns of those who are afraid of H.R. 3005 because it means an end of our anti-dumping and countervailing duty legislation. If I thought that was the case, I would be opposing this instead of here helping the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) and our other folks champion this effort. I know firsthand the effects of illegal dumping and the value

of our anti-dumping laws. Voting for the Trade Promotion Authority is neither an endorsement of repealing anti-dumping laws, nor a repudiation of the English resolution that this House passed with such an overwhelming majority just last month.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in the last century a fellow by the name of Hans J. Morgantheau said when food does not cross borders, troops will. When we look at most of the problems of the world that have been associated with folks who have something and it is desired by folks who do not, those troops cross the border.

I have said twice now and at the risk of repeating myself, I have been in 80 foreign countries, and I have negotiated with every manner of government in every way that I possibly could for every kind of product; and having a seat at that table and being right there, face to face with the potential buyer, is the most important thing we can do.

Trade Promotion Authority, Mr. Speaker, gives us a seat at that table. Trade Promotion Authority will indeed manifest the value that Hans J. Morgantheau put into his idea that when we are trading with people, we are building a relationship, and that relationship then leads to an exchange of values and an exchange of goals and eventually an exchange of ideas and peace.

For those Members who may doubt the value of trade, I direct them to a book called ''The Lexus and The Olive Branch,'' Chapter 6, and it is called ''The Golden Arches Theory of Peace.'' No two countries that ever received a McDonald's franchise since they received that franchise have gone to war because they understand the value of a relationship and a trade consumer and a provider and supplier-consumer relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and all of those who are speaking on it tonight in passage of H.R. 3005, and assure that we can unleash the power and the potential of the American farmer and the American trader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) for that very well thought out and impassioned plea for the passage of the President's Trade Promotion Authority.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) for organizing this Special Order and rise in support of Trade Promotion Authority.

One-third of all American families depend directly or indirectly on foreign trade for their income, and America is the number one exporting nation in the world. But unless we act to promote fair and free trade, this leadership will fade. Trade Promotion Authority ensures that the United States will have better access to foreign markets while strengthening domestic industries.

An increasingly important force behind our Nation's economic growth is the high-tech sector. In the past 5 years, high-tech industry accounted for one-third of the growth of our gross domestic product. It lowered our inflation rate and created 1.5 million new high-paying jobs. Overall, the world market for IT products rose steadily to $1.3 trillion in 2000 and is expected to grow as companies take further advantage of the Internet and e-commerce.

In the United States, the information sector employment rose by 15 percent from 1997 to over 2 million jobs last year. Additionally, more than half of the 2.6 percent increase in U.S. labor productivity between 1996 and 1999 was directly related to increasing investment in IT. What may not be known is that U.S. high-tech companies exported $223 billion in merchandise last year. In Illinois, the number of companies exporting increased by 50 percent from 1992 to 1998.

Mr. Speaker, Motorola, which is based in Chicago's northern suburbs, is one of our Nation's leading exporters of high-tech goods. In the past several years, their exports have increased steadily. Last year almost two-thirds of Motorola's sales were exported. Additionally, thanks to the innovation of the Internet and e-commerce, health care companies such as Allegiance and Medline, based in northern Illinois, greatly contributed to overall Internet sales transactions worldwide, providing critical health care supplies for hospitals both here and abroad.

Allegiance alone provides goods to over 80 countries and has 20 subsidiaries worldwide. These companies support incomes of thousands of families in Deerfield, Vernon Hills, and Libertyville.

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If we grant the President Trade Promotion Authority and these employees continue to take advantage of the Internet, more jobs will be created in Illinois's high-tech sector.

New markets represent an enormous opportunity for high-tech industry to maintain our global leadership. With 500 million people living south of our border and Latin America with only 18 million personal computers on hand, now is the time to open new markets to America's high-tech goods.

While the Information Technology Agreement eliminated duties in the IT sector in some major markets, the larger markets of Latin America are not a party to this agreement. Tariffs on IT products in key Latin American countries remains as high as 30 percent. Beyond tariffs, IT products also face nontariff restrictions such as redundant testing and certification requirements. U.S. suppliers, including those in Illinois, will see a rise in job creation if these barriers are lifted. And if we act now and give trade promotion to the President, we can accomplish this.

Opportunity is a two-way street. Opening markets in Latin America to computers and the Internet will help modernize their economies while, at the same time, promoting free markets, competition, and improved quality of life. As computer and new technologies bring opportunity for economic growth in Latin America, U.S. jobs will be created.

Since NAFTA was enacted, the United States exports to Canada and Mexico have increased 104 percent. Every day, America transacts an estimated $1.8 billion in trade with our NAFTA partners at a rate of $1,200,000 a minute. In 2000, America's exports to our NAFTA partners grew 30 percent faster than to exports to the rest of the world. Since 1992, open markets with Mexico and Canada created more than 20 million new jobs in the U.S., with wages and workers supported at incomes 13 to 18 percent higher than the national average. NAFTA is a proven trade agreement that has led to success for American business.

If we fail the President on Trade Promotion Authority, we will fall behind the curve and the cost will be American jobs. Already, nations worldwide have entered into an estimated 130 preferential trade agreements, while the United States is just party to two, one being NAFTA and the other with our allies in Israel. Only 11 percent of the world exports are covered by American trade agreements, compared to 33 percent for European Union free trade agreements and Customs arrangements. We must act now, and every day America delays, America loses. Communities, families, businesses, and workers lose opportunities and income that could come with expanded markets for American goods and services. During this time of economic uncertainty, it is crucial that we grant the President Trade Promotion Authority to open new opportunities for American businesses and to preserve American jobs.

Past trade agreements have benefited the typical family of four in Illinois by $1,300 per year. Illinois exports totaled over $2,500 for every man, woman, and child in our State. Over 350,000 Illinois families depend on exports for their income, with another 150,000 indirectly depending on export business. Since 1993 and the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada, Illinois increased our exports to those two countries by 73 percent.

Let me look at one key industry: environmental technology, which grew its exports to Mexico by 385 percent. Exports from the city of Chicago alone totaled $21 billion last year. Over 1,400 businesses in Illinois exported last year, and 86 percent of them were small- and medium-sized companies.

Take the case of Fluid Management in Wheeling. Over 60 percent of the company's business depends on exports. Mr. Speaker, 360 jobs alone. And Fluid's skilled engineering force grew from 6 in 1989 to over 100 by 1996. The firm has expanded here, at home, and in Australia, Europe, and Latin America. After NAFTA, Fluid opened offices

in Latin America. The total number of exporting companies in Illinois grew from 9,400 to 14,200 and, in sum, Illinois exported over $32 billion last year to 208 foreign markets.

That is why we need to pass Trade Promotion Authority in this Congress, and, once passed, we will lower tariffs against American goods and enable exports to lead our country out of recession.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) for organizing this Special Order on the need to boost exports in America. They are important for Virginia, and they are important for my State of Illinois.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), my good friend, and join with him in that heartfelt statement of support for the Trade Promotion Act of 2001, which we are poised to vote on here in this House this week, on Thursday.

Mr. Speaker, the economists have announced what many Americans have known for months. America is officially in recession, and granting the President Trade Promotion Authority will allow him to negotiate trade treaties that will create jobs and deliver a much-needed boost to our economy. The real cost to American business of not granting the President Trade Promotion Authority is that other countries will continue to negotiate free trade agreements to the exclusion of the United States and its interests, putting American businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

Two vital sectors of America's economy that have suffered greatly during the recent economic downturn here in this country will benefit most from Trade Promotion Authority, and those are the sectors that we are focusing on tonight and that have been spoken to on the part of my colleagues, and they are the agricultural and high-tech sectors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for a minute to focus on the Commonwealth of Virginia and how it benefits from increased trade. My district, the southern district, and the Commonwealth of Virginia as a whole, strongly benefit from America's current trade activity. We, like America, benefit from a vibrant international trade environment. Last year, Virginia sold more than $10.5 billion of exports to nearly 200 overseas markets. Virginia exported more than $9.2 billion of manufactured items such as machinery, transportation equipment, computers, and electronics, fabricated metal products, and beverage and tobacco products. The number of Virginia companies exporting increased 62 percent from 1992 to 1998. Demand is growing for the top five agricultural products exported from Virginia, including tobacco leaf, poultry products, live animals and red meats, wheat products and soybean products.

Here are some of the benefits that we stand to gain from increased trade in Virginia. Nearly 60,000 manufacturing jobs are tied to exports. Roughly 6,000 Virginia citizens hold jobs related to agricultural exporters. Jobs supported by exports in Virginia are 13 to 18 percent better paying than the national average. In 1997, an estimated 42,000 Virginia jobs depended on or were indirectly related to manufactured exports, and 1 in every 7 of the manufacturing jobs in Virginia is tied to exports.

Mr. Speaker, no doubt that one of the tremendous engines for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Nation as a whole and our economy has been the high technology sector. This industry is particularly affected by the absence of Presidential Trade Promotion Authority, and it is this industry which also will stand to benefit most in terms of job creation and increased productivity across this land.

Firms in the United States face many obstacles in the global market such as high tariffs and regulatory burdens. These facts inhibit the competitiveness of American firms. Such obstacles, if not removed, will ultimately lead to the loss of American jobs to our foreign competitors, adding fuel to the fire of the already stalled American economy and associated job layoffs.

Obstacles exist such as the soaring tariffs. These tariffs on American information technology products, scientific instruments, and medical equipment being sold in countries with which the United States does not have trade agreements reduces American competitiveness with the indigenous goods produced in that target country and our foreign competitors. Second, American companies face regulatory barriers on trade of information technology and communications products that are in place without trade agreements. Absence of Trade Promotion Authority, make no mistake, results in countries being unwilling to negotiate trade agreements with the United States. And why would they agree to negotiate with us if a deal as struck is not really a deal? As was stated before by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), I think our President, Mr. Bush, has earned the confidence of the American people and we must confer upon him Trade Promotion Authority to make sure that our American businesses stay competitive in the global marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, to give my colleagues an example of a free trade agreement, most trade between Brazil and Argentina is now tariff free, while U.S. firms still face an average tariff of more than 14 percent on exports to those Western Hemisphere countries and neighbors of ours. Foreign Ministers from both Brazil and Argentina have suggested that they cannot negotiate trade agreements with the United States until the President has Fast Track authority.

Granting the President Trade Promotion Authority will allow him to negotiate trade treaties that create access to new markets for the high-tech industry. Access to new markets will be a major force behind the success of our technological community and the job growth therein. This success will be obtained by allowing companies to expand their markets and their sales in developing countries in order to continue the rapid expansion of the high-tech industries here at home.

As an example of how important opening up foreign markets is to American companies, this is a staggering statistic: 58 percent, that is, nearly 60 percent of Microsoft's revenues, is derived from international sales. Passage of TPA will allow companies like Microsoft to continue to increase their revenues in the global marketplace, and at the same time we are opening up new markets we are growing the job base here in America.

Trade agreements could also help establish the framework for additional e-commerce by American firms between those businesses and their customers abroad. High-tech products from America will be available at lower costs as these markets continue to open. If we have the ability to enter into more bilateral trade agreements, American goods and equipment will begin to show up in more countries and more markets, in much greater numbers and at much more competitive prices.

Recently, President George W. Bush addressed a meeting of leaders in the high-tech industry. The President expressed his vision of a world with increased free trade and described trade's benefits for the U.S. economy. And he said, ''Ours is an administration dedicated to free trade. I hope that Congress gives me Trade Promotion Authority as soon as possible so I can negotiate free trade agreements. We should not try to build a wall around our Nation and encourage others not to do so. We ought to be tearing these walls down. Free trade is good for America and it will be good for your industry as well.''

Mr. Speaker, another aspect within the international trade environment which is providing obstacles, especially in the area of the high-tech sector, is the issue of piracy. Piracy is currently costing the high-tech sector in America a tremendous amount of revenues. The protection of American know-how is another benefit and an essential part of TPA.

For example, 58 percent of business software applications used in Latin America were pirated in the year 2000, costing the software industry in our country nearly $869 million in licensing revenues. In 1998, Latin America's software market generated approximately $3.5 billion and is expected to grow by 18 percent annually.

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Latin America is currently considered a region where a free trade agreement could occur fairly quickly with the United States. This is a region that provides a huge opportunity for the U.S. software industry. TPA will allow the President to negotiate trade treaties that will combat piracy by making

intellectual property protection a fundamental condition of membership in multilateral and bilateral trade alliances. It will also open wide this natural growth market to the south for all American businesses, thereby increasing the job base in America.

Singapore is also a natural destination for the President and his team of negotiators to engage in talks and produce a bilateral trade agreement to open up markets to United States business. Intellectual property reforms in Singapore and cooperation in that country with policymakers have created an environment prepared for increased high-tech trade. We must allow President Bush to take advantage of this conducive environment and lock in the opportunities for American businesses in that country with a bilateral trade agreement with Singapore.

The issue of privacy is certainly linked and has as its pillar the protection of intellectual property owned by American businesses. If America's copyright industries are to continue to be successful in the world markets, the President must be able to effectively negotiate trade agreements that reduce barriers to creative works in America. Trade agreements are the vehicle to license and insure the continued growth of the industry in America. That is why the International Intellectual Property Alliance supports Trade Promotion Authority.

A recent report indicates that the copyright industries, including computer software makers, music, computer hardware, and many more, they employed more than 7.6 million Americans in 1999. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues before me have stated the many benefits that NAFTA has conferred upon this country.

Eight years ago last month, the House of Representatives debated and passed the North American Free Trade Agreement. It has produced a tremendous growth in trade for the United States and our two partners, Mexico and Canada. Trade with our NAFTA partners is growing twice as fast as U.S. trade with the rest of the world and accounts for approximately one-third of all U.S. merchandise trade.

NAFTA trade exceeds trade with both the European Union and Japan combined, approximately $1.8 billion a day, as was pointed out earlier. NAFTA has kept Mexico on track to sustain internal economic reform, which in turn has helped the United States. NAFTA has resulted in reduced tariffs for American goods, benefiting American companies and American workers.

Under NAFTA, Mexico eliminated its 15 percent tariff on live slaughter cattle, its 20 percent tariff on chilled beef, and its 25 percent tariff on frozen beef. Mexico has been the fastest-growing market for U.S. beef. U.S. beef exports to Mexico rose from the 1993 pre-NAFTA level of 39,000 tons valued at $116 million, to 179,000 tons valued at $531 million in 2000.

In the year 2000, 73 percent of Mexican imports were products from the United States: capital goods, from road-building equipment to hospital instruments; consumer goods from Mexico's emergent middle class; everything from blue jeans to compact disks and food. NAFTA led to a stronger economy, which led to improved living standards for Americans.

Examples in my home State of Virginia: the Jones Group International, based in Fairfax, illustrates how an increasing number of American small service companies are competing in world markets. This firm provides consulting services for developing countries.

The Regional African Satellite Communications Organization contacted the company in 1999 to develop two detailed documents, one for technology transfer and the other for know-how and an assistance program.

Millicom International Cellular. This Arlington, Virginia-based telecommunications company announced in 1998 that SENTELgsm, a 75 percent Millicom-owned company, has been awarded a nationwide global systems for a mobile communications license for the Republic of Senegal.

The company plans to embark on a rapid development program to build and launch a GSM mobile network to initially launch service in Dakar, with plans to expand coverage to all the regional capitals.

The license award is for a period of 20 years, renewable every 5 years thereafter. The firm reports that this significant investment will result in nearly $10 million in U.S. exports and will create or retain more than 100 U.S. jobs.

In a recent speech, Commerce Secretary Don Evans summed up the benefits of Trade Promotion Authority: ''The President is also committed to keeping electronic commerce free of roadblocks, ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights, and the strict enforcement of our trade agreements. But to achieve these goals in a successful trade policy that serves the interests of American business and American workers, the President needs Trade Promotion Authority.''

Without TPA, other nations will continue to refuse to negotiate treaties with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital for our economic interest and security that the United States set the trade agenda for the world market.

HONORING LEW RUDIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if anyone watching tonight has ever called New York ''the Big Apple'' or uttered the words ''I love New York,'' I hope they will join me tonight in remembering the man who brought those phrases into the public domain. His name was Lewis Rudin, but he was better known as ''Mr. New York.''

On September 20, at the end of his 80th summer, Lew Rudin died of cancer. We all know what happened in New York 9 days earlier. As we look to rebuild and renew New York after the tragic events of September 11, we must do so with Lew Rudin's vigor, vision, imagination, spirit, and wholehearted love for our great city.

At a time when the city's skyline has two gigantic cavities, I take heart in knowing that it is populated with so many buildings developed by Lew and his family. The Rudin family has never sold a building it developed, embodying a virtue that too few people value and practice today, and that is loyalty. Lew was fiercely loyal to his family, his friends, his city, and his father's commitment to rewarding New York because New York had rewarded his family.

Lew was a tireless booster and advocate for New York City. He co-founded the Association for a Better New York, which has lived up to its title time and time again. It has also brought us better schools, improved transportation, and cleaner and safer streets. The association became a watchdog, rewarding those who enhanced our city with Polished Apple Awards.

Lew Rudin bet on the city, even in its darkest hours; and he bet right every time, in part because he helped solve the city's biggest problems. In the mid-1970s he helped rescue New York from the brink of bankruptcy by convincing corporations to prepay their property taxes.

He beat back an effort by the President of the United States to abolish deductions for State and local taxes, which could have caused an exodus of businesses operating in the city.

He persuaded the U.S. Tennis Association to move within Queens, rather than outside of New York. He gained landing rights for the Concorde, enhancing our stature as the business capital of the world. He helped expand the New York City Marathon to the five boroughs. Today, 30,000 athletes participate and millions watch around the world.

Lew worked with me recently to transform the dream of a Second Avenue subway into a reality, and he championed the cause of bringing the Olympics to New York in 2012.

Serving in various roles, Lew was a leader and member of a broad array of New York institutions, from North General and Lenox Hill Hospitals to Central Synagogue and Ford's Theater to Meals on Wheels and New York University. His enormous contributions to so many institutions made Lew Rudin an institution unto himself, and prompted the New York City Landmarks Conservancy to designate him a living legend landmark.

Anything Lew Rudin loved, he also served. An avid golfer, Lew founded First Tee, which was dedicated to