

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 3448

Mr. REID. Madam President, I renew my unanimous consent request on the bioterrorism conference report.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, there is no objection on this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE EXPANSION ACT—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3459

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time now be charged against Senator HARKIN, who has 45 minutes under the order previously entered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. EDWARDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding, following the statement of Senator HARKIN, that Senator CANTWELL is next in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If no Republican speaker seeks recognition, that is correct.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senator from Washington be recognized now for her time. Senator HARKIN is not here, and his time is being wasted. I ask that the order be inverted so Senator CANTWELL may now speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington is recognized for 20 minutes.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon in support of the trade and worker assistance legislation before the Senate that we have been working on for the last 2 weeks. I recognize the important work of Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY and thank them for their tireless efforts in putting together a good trade proposal that will help workers and businesses throughout our country.

The Baucus-Grassley package embraces a balanced, comprehensive approach to free trade. This is the same approach adopted by our predecessors in the 93rd Congress when they passed the original 1974 trade act which did combine the flexibility of trade negotiation agreements with trade adjustment assistance. Indeed, with the combination of trade promotion authority with the largest expansion of trade adjustment assistance in history, we are making a downpayment on the economic growth and opportunity for many people in our country that will impact our prosperity in the future.

Trade is absolutely critical to my home State. It is critical to our current economy. It is critical to our future economy. The Puget Sound region is probably the most export-dependent region in the country, and Washington is probably the most trade-dependent State in the Nation. Trade supports about one-third of the Washington State workforce or roughly 750,000 jobs. These jobs pay, on average, 46 percent more than the overall statewide average. These are good jobs.

Washington truly is a portal to the Pacific. Our ports—from Bellingham, Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, Longview, to Vancouver—ship everything from electronics, airplanes, to fruits, vegetables, wheat, and hundreds of other products to over 199 countries.

I often hear from my colleagues when discussing trade promotion authority, What is it we are going to sell from the United States to these countries? The answer from my State reaches across many sectors: Agriculture, manufacturing, and high-technology products. Trade provides opportunities for both large and small businesses. Washington State, for example, is the largest producer of soft white wheat, of which about 85 percent of the crop is exported to foreign consumers at substantially higher prices than Washington wheat would receive domestically. In manufacturing, the Boeing Company basically generates about \$30 billion in sales, a big part of the Puget Sound industry. And 70 percent of the revenues come from overseas. Of the current sale of Boeing products, 70 percent is to overseas markets. We expect that to be 74 percent in the next several years.

In our high-tech sector, Microsoft brings in about \$25 billion in annual revenue, 50 percent of its sales being made overseas.

In these sectors—in agriculture, manufacturing, and in high technology—our State depends on foreign markets to make our economy work. It is not just large businesses; it is small businesses. Eric Jenson of Seattle founded a company designing and building bowed instruments, such as the cello. Initially his business was limited to domestic buyers, but by putting his company on the Internet, he thrust himself into world markets and now sells about 25 percent of his product overseas.

As any salesperson would tell you, if you want to sell something, you have

to get your product into the store in a competitive fashion. If you have to pay a middleman to do so, the prices will be too high. Similarly, if we want to sell products to the world, we need to get into foreign markets and avoid high tariffs. Currently, our businesses and farmers face tremendous barriers to foreign markets. Indeed, while foreign companies are able to sell to American consumers at import duties that are averaging less about 2 percent, our companies and farmers often face trade barriers that are 10 times as high, basically closing them out of these market opportunities.

The key tool in lowering these tariffs and opening up markets is substantial bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. In this way, we can better pursue these agreements by giving the President trade promotion authority.

Yet while we give him trade promotion authority, it is clear we should not do that without making sure that certain objectives are met for protection of labor and the environment. That is why the Baucus-Grassley language makes clear to the President for the first time that the relaxation of environmental labor laws to provide a competitive advantage are absolutely unacceptable. By using the Jordan free trade language as a model, the Baucus-Grassley language made stronger by our passage of the Lieberman amendment, that I supported earlier last year, ensures that environmental and labor protections will be principal components for future trade relationships.

Also, the TPA bill, as amended, is absolutely clear that our domestic laws are not to be weakened in future trade agreements.

As we open markets and help provide training to our workforce, we need to make sure that countries do not unfairly subsidize industries or dump their products in our market. Again, the amendment offered by Senators DAYTON and CRAIG which passed, and which I supported, included extra protections for trade safeguards that ensure that our companies and farmers are protected.

While we have looked as these trade agreements, there is one very important aspect of this bill I want to point out: The area of trade promotion authority. Before I get to that, I will talk about the fact that there is a misconception: if we do not do trade promotion authority or trade agreement, somehow we will stop the reduction in manufacturing jobs.

It is clear we have seen a reduction in manufacturing jobs in our country and in other countries. But we have not seen a reduction in manufacturing output. What that really means is we have just gotten more efficient and effective at producing products, which means the workforce employed in these areas has been replaced by more productive efforts, which means we need to think about how we are retraining and reskilling our workforce for the future.