

and effective one-stop delivery systems with streamlined access to training programs. In addition, core, intensive and training services provided under the law have been invaluable in assisting adult workers in areas of the country facing skill shortages. Such continued assistance is essential for enhancing the 21st Century workforce during this downturn in the economy.

I look forward to working with President Bush and my colleagues on the House Education and the Workforce Committee on both pieces of legislation to continue to strengthen our workforce development system to aid those Americans most in need of help getting back to work.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE BACK TO  
WORK INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003

**HON. JOHN BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2003*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to co-sponsor the "Back to Work Incentive Act of 2003," sponsored by Congressman JON PORTER, to create personal re-employment accounts to help put unemployed Americans back to work.

During his State of the Union Address, President Bush laid out a comprehensive plan to speed our economic recovery and promote long-term job growth and investment. His economic stimulus plan also provides specific assistance—in the form of personal re-employment accounts—to help unemployed Americans who are struggling to return to work.

The Back to Work Incentive Act reflects the President's plan to create these accounts and aid unemployed workers who need the most help getting back to work. By introducing this measure, we are taking an important step toward making his plan a reality.

The President's proposal—which is reflected in this bill—represents a new and innovative approach to helping the unemployed get back on their feet. As President Bush has said, one worker out of work is one too many, and his plan will help working families in times when they need it the most.

States will be able to target this flexible benefit to help the unemployed who are most in need of help in the form of \$3,000 Back to Work accounts. Recipients will be able to keep the balance of the account as a cash reemployment bonus if they become reemployed within 13 weeks, creating an important incentive to return to work quickly. The more quickly a job is obtained, the larger the reemployment bonus will be.

Workers can use their Back to Work accounts for a variety of different services to help them find a good job, including job training, child care, transportation, and other expenses to help in finding a new job. These reemployment accounts give the unemployed the flexibility and resources they need.

One of the exciting aspects of the new Back to Work accounts is that they empower individual recipients to make choices appropriate for their own circumstances. Recipients will be able to create reemployment plans that help them navigate all the options available—such as career counseling or training for a new profession in which they can become employed.

By providing choice and flexibility, we can get people back into steady, good-paying jobs.

This new benefit supplements and enhances the services that are already available for those who are most likely to face obstacles in finding and keeping new employment. Back to Work accounts will allow the nationwide One Stop Career Center system to offer another important benefit to the unemployed, in addition to the array of employment services these centers already provide.

A number of states have experimented with personal re-employment accounts and the results have been very positive. For example, Iowa has used a similar approach with reemployment accounts of up to \$5,000 a person, called the New Employment Opportunities Fund. Richard Running, the director of Iowa Workforce Development, recently said, "It has worked a lot better than we had imagined it would."

This proposal is a compassionate one because it provides workers with the flexibility and resources they need to help them get back on the job quickly. I look forward to working with President Bush, Subcommittee Chairman MCKEON, and Congressman PORTER to move this proposal quickly and make this innovative plan a reality for working families who need the help the most.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE DUTY  
PARITY ACT OF 2003

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2003*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise before the House today to express my sincere concern for the severe economic conditions faced by the U.S. lumber industry. For nearly two decades our lumber industry has been at odds with the provincial governments of Canada over heavily subsidized softwood lumber. We've implemented numerous quick fixes to provide relief for our domestic industry, but since the expiration of the last U.S.-Canadian Softwood Lumber Agreement in 2001, lumber prices have continued to drop. If current market conditions continue, many lumber manufacturers will not survive the next 6 months.

I represent the Piney Woods of Mississippi. The timber industry is the second largest sector of our economy behind the poultry industry. My constituents depend on the production of lumber and timber harvest for jobs and economic stability. We are losing jobs and our economic base in the Third Congressional District of Mississippi because heavily subsidized softwood lumber imports are being dumped in the United States by the provincial governments of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I realize the benefits of open markets, and my record clearly reflects that I am not against free trade. I am, however, opposed to unfair trade practices sometimes implemented by some of our trading partners. I oppose dumping, and I oppose the practice of the Canadian Government practically giving away trees to its mills for processing.

The Department of Commerce knows that the provincial governments of Canada are engaged in unfair trade practices. This is reflected by the countervailing duties and antidumping duties imposed on Canadian

softwood lumber imports. Our hope was that these duties would level the playing field between our two countries. But that effort has failed because the Canadian provincial governments have simply expanded their subsidies to offset our duties.

In that light, Mr. Speaker, we are obliged to go a step further in our actions to promote fair trade. Today, I am introducing the Duty Parity Act of 2003. This legislation will clarify U.S. statute and ensure that our trade laws fully offset the values of unfairly traded products. My legislation will treat countervailing duties imposed by our government as costs of production when antidumping duties are calculated by the Department of Commerce. Not including these duties as costs of production will only permit continued unfair pricing by our trade partners at the expense of U.S. companies and workers. The Duty Parity Act will give the Commerce Department the authority to accurately account for all subsidies and impose properly valued duties. The EU and Canada treat countervailing duties as costs of production when determining antidumping duties. Why should we act differently?

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation to provide parity to our domestic lumber industry. We can ask our lumber mills to compete within the free market. But we can't ask them to compete against the treasuries of the Canadian provincial governments.

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REINTRODUCTION OF INDIAN PRO-  
GRAMS REAUTHORIZATION AND  
TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to introduce legislation, which I originally introduced in the 107th Congress, that declares that the United States holds certain public domain lands in trust for the Pueblos of San Ildefonso and Santa Clara in New Mexico.

Senators PETE DOMENICI and JEFF BINGAMAN sponsored the Senate companion bill during the 107th Congress, and were successful in incorporating it into S. 2711, the Indian Programs Reauthorization and Technical Amendments Act of 2002, which I strongly supported, during the closing days of the 107th Congress. However, the House was unable to take up this legislation prior to its adjournment.

I would also like to note that both Senators are reintroducing, in the Senate today, the companion to this bill.

Accordingly, today I reintroduce this legislation, which will formally restore control and tribal authority of nearly 4,500 acres of culturally significant ancestral lands. Located in the eastern Jemez Mountains, roughly 2,000 acres of land located within the aboriginal domain of the San Ildefonso Pueblo will be transferred to that Pueblo; similarly, approximately 2,484 acres of Santa Clara Pueblo's aboriginal lands will be transferred to that Pueblo.

This transfer is the result of years of negotiations between the two Pueblos, and between the Pueblos and the Department of the Interior, and the Bureau of Land Management. The Pueblos intend to maintain the natural