

(June 9, 2005) LIPINSKI URGES REEVALUATION OF US TRADE POLICY

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Cites Concerns Over Trade Imbalance and Loss of American Jobs

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, the House of Representatives considered H.J.Res. 27, a resolution that would withdraw the approval of the United States from the agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"I voted present on this resolution to send a message that the U.S. must reevaluate its trade policy and stop the loss of good American jobs," explained Lipinski. "I believe strongly in protecting American workers, preventing outsourcing, and establishing sound trade policy, but I could not in good conscience vote to remove the U.S. immediately from the WTO, especially knowing the serious implications of such a withdrawal on our nation's economy."

In 1995, when the WTO was first established, the U.S. trade deficit was \$96 billion but by last year it had skyrocketed to a staggering \$617 billion and is projected to top \$700 billion this year. Current trade policy has led to the export of millions of American jobs. In total, the U.S. lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs and one million high technology positions over the last four years.

"America's working families continue to have serious concerns about the role of the WTO and the displacement of our nation's jobs," stated Lipinski. "It is time we take action to reshape WTO policy and practices along with our own trade policy."

The last decade has demonstrated the significant failings of the WTO and the dangerous flaws of U.S. trade policies. The massive U.S. trade deficit, and tremendous outsourcing of jobs and dislocation of workers, indicates the enormity of the problem that America continues to face and the extent to which US trade policies must be changed.

"Clearly, the practices of the WTO have harmed American workers and current policy continues to enlarge our trade deficit," said Lipinski. "We can no longer idly sit back and watch American jobs be shipped overseas, worker protections lost, and wages lowered."

"Fundamental change is needed," continued Lipinski. "It is critical for the development of a sound global economy that we work to amend U.S. trade policy and foster an international trade system that is equitable and sustainable."