

(March 29, 2006) LIPINSKI URGES CHINESE LEGISLATORS TO MAKE TRADE PRACTICES MORE FAIR TO AMERICANS

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Congressman Participates in Roundtable with China's Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman
and other Chinese Legislators

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Congressman Dan Lipinski joined his colleagues at the U.S.-China Interparliamentary Exchange to discuss with several key Chinese leaders intellectual property rights enforcement, the growing trade imbalance, and the continued concerns over Chinese currency valuation. The exchange included several members of Congress and various Chinese trade and economic leaders, specifically the Honorable Jiang Enzhu, the Chairman of China's National People's Congress' Foreign Affairs Committee.

Congressman Lipinski, who has long championed the revaluation of China's currency, continued to urge China to allow their currency to appreciate and move towards a more flexible mechanism that reflects free market forces. While China did allow a small currency appreciation last summer - about 2% - their currency remains unfairly low-priced, which continues to harm American trade and causes job losses and low wages in the U.S.

"For too long, China has maintained their currency at an artificially low level," stated Congressman Lipinski. "Under-priced Chinese imports are choking U.S. manufacturing and destroying quality American jobs. Third District families have already lost thousands of good-paying jobs due to unfair trade practices. We cannot afford to let this continue."

Congressman Lipinski also raised concerns about China's willingness to protect intellectual property rights. The United States, joined by Japan and Switzerland, submitted a request in December of 2005 for information regarding China's anti-piracy policies. The Chinese government has not yet responded to this request.

"The United States has long led the world in innovation. Unfortunately, the Chinese government has been reluctant to enforce U.S. and World Trade Organization copyright laws. This is destroying Americans' incentive to create and robbing our innovators of their rightful compensation. China must do more to guarantee the protection of intellectual property rights if both of our countries are to continue to enjoy the benefits of American innovation."

