

(May 1, 2008) Lipinski Criticizes Chinese Government's Business Practices

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Cosponsors Resolution Condemning Trade, Labor, and Environmental Abuses

[Washington, D.C.] Today, Congressman Dan Lipinski released the following statement announcing he has signed on as a cosponsor of H.Res.925 condemning China for its unacceptable business practices. The resolution, which was introduced by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX), has 23 bipartisan cosponsors.

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"China has continuously flouted international standards in its business practices and deserves to be held publicly accountable for its actions. For too long, Americans have been victims of unsafe Chinese products, millions of which have been recalled in the last year. These recalled products have included toys, cribs and strollers. And the problem continues. Just this month, U.S. researchers identified China as the source of a chemical contaminant in the blood-thinner Heparin which has led to at least 81 deaths.

"American businesses have also suffered as a result of China's unscrupulous practices. Due to China's artificially low exchange rate, U.S. businesses are continuously undercut by Chinese imports. This has led to the loss of manufacturing jobs in America and a growing U.S. trade deficit, considerably weakening the U.S. economy. Chicagoland has been particularly hard hit by unfair Chinese competition, losing over 100,000 manufacturing jobs in the past decade.

"And in China, labor and environmental conditions remain abysmal. Last June, it was discovered that hundreds of people in China, including many women and children, had been forced to work in brick kilns. These workers often suffered beatings and confinement. And Chinese pollution has become infamous, tarnishing not only their local environment, but threatening the global environment. The pollution in China is so bad that several Olympic athletes have expressed concern for their health in the run up to the Beijing Olympics this summer.

"Incidents such as these are unacceptable. We should not be silent about a government that shows little regard for labor rights, environmental protections, or consumer safety. That is why I am proud to cosponsor H.Res.925 which condemns China for its record on these issues. Our economy, environment, and consumers are at risk."