

Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2007 5:59 PM
To: EMAILUPDATE-MI08@LS1.HOUSE.GOV
Subject: Cracking Down on China, Protecting Michigan Jobs

I write today to update you on recent legislative activities in the United States Congress. I appreciate the opportunity to contact you.

[Cracking Down on China, Protecting Michigan Jobs](#)

Recently, we have seen a rash of unsafe Chinese products threaten the health of American families. Americans should not be put at risk by toys that poison our children, foods that kill our family pets, defective tires that put our lives in jeopardy on the highway, or some of the other faulty and dangerous products China is producing.

So, this summer I introduced an amendment to expand the Office of China Compliance (OCC) at the Department of Commerce. The OCC was designed to combat China's illegal and unfair trading practices by boosting enforcement of international trade rules. The idea has now gained considerable bipartisan support in the House of Representatives.

Joined by colleagues on both sides of the aisle, last week I called on President Bush to expand the Office of China Compliance, and to immediately convene a cabinet-level meeting with the appropriate Chinese officials to confront the problem of dangerous trade practices that are putting Americans jobs and lives in jeopardy.

Only with vigorous trade monitoring and enforcement can we create the level playing field required for American job providers to succeed in the global marketplace. We cannot delay moving to deal with the growing threat of counterfeit and dangerous Chinese goods.

[Making College More Affordable](#)

Skyrocketing tuition increases make it harder and harder for students and families to pay for college costs. That is why I continue to fight for affordable student loan programs and innovative college savings initiatives.

I am pleased to report that last week with my support, the House of Representatives passed legislation to dramatically increase the Pell Grant program, which provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate students. The legislation has also passed the Senate and is expected to be signed by the President in the coming days. Under the legislation, the maximum value of the Pell Grant scholarship will increase by \$1,090 over the next five years, reaching \$5,400 by 2012. This is an increase from the 2006 maximum Pell Grant of \$4,050. In fact, some students will see an immediate boost of almost \$500 in their Pell Grant scholarship in the 2008-2009 school year alone. Boosting Pell Grants by over \$11 billion, this important investment will increase access and improve affordability for thousands of students and their families.

To read a *Lansing State Journal* article on this subject, please [click here](#).

[Winning One for the Great Lakes](#)

As you may know, a massive oil refinery in Whiting, Indiana was recently given permission by Indiana regulators to dump significantly more ammonia and industrial sludge into Lake Michigan. I believe this decision by the Indiana state government runs counter to years of efforts to clean up the Great Lakes from toxic pollutants.

Thankfully, because of the strong voice of Great Lakes residents and the swift action of Congress, the oil refinery has announced that it will reverse its decision to increase its dumping of ammonia and sludge into Lake Michigan. While I am very pleased with this news, rest assured that I will remain vigilant to ensure that the oil refinery keeps its word.

To read a *Detroit News* article on this subject, please [click here](#).

I appreciate your continued interest in the legislative activities of your U.S. Congress. As always, should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

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