

Sent: Monday, August 13, 2007 2:43 PM

To: EMAILUPDATE-MI08@LS1.HOUSE.GOV

Subject: Legislative Email Update - Rogers Targets China's Theft of U.S. Jobs

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

Rogers Targets China's Theft of U.S. Jobs

China's unfair trade practices continue to harm manufacturers in the United States. Particularly here in Michigan, China's cheating has cost us jobs. In Congress, I have been a strong advocate for enforcing fair trade with China.

Recently, I introduced an amendment calling for the strengthening the Office of China Compliance (OCC) to boost enforcement of international trade rules. America's trade deficit with China mushroomed to more than \$230 billion last year. As a Member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Trade, I know China ignores international trade law, using illegal and unfair practices that are literally stealing American jobs.

The time is well-passed when we need to take off the kid gloves and get tough about demanding that China live up to the laws that put us on a level playing field. We must put a stop to the counterfeit products, like auto parts, currency manipulation, and the outright theft of intellectual property. My amendment would increase funding for the OCC from \$6 million to \$12 million in the FY2008 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act. It would beef up trade monitoring and enforcement within the U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Agreement Compliance Center. By paying special attention to small and medium-sized U.S. businesses, the OCC has been working since 2004 to protect American jobs by identifying and fighting China's dangerous trade practices.

An example of China's trade law cheating, like counterfeit auto parts, can be found on my website at

<http://www.mikerogers.house.gov/Gallery.aspx?G=6>. Counterfeit auto parts, according to Federal Trade Commission estimates, cost U.S. automotive suppliers \$12 billion annually in sales, which translates to about 200,000 jobs lost each year. The FBI reports counterfeit products steal about \$250 billion in sales and 750,000 U.S. jobs a year.

Rogers Continues to Fight Medicare Cuts

I recently urged my House colleagues to join me in voting against a Democrat plan that would slash the Medicare benefits of American seniors. Under the guise of expanding and reauthorizing the very successful SCHIP program (State Children's Health Insurance Plan), this dangerous proposal actually opens the door for giving health care coverage to illegal immigrants and the children of families making \$100,000.

I believe that Congress must reauthorize SCHIP, but we cannot use the children it serves as a shield to cut Medicare and force more

families into a government-run health care system. In Michigan, the proposal to slash Medicare Advantage by \$157.1 billion would take away health care coverage preferred by nearly 200,000 of the state's seniors, including about 10,000 in the 8th Congressional District in Mid-Michigan.

The Democrat proposal would force those seniors now using Medicare Advantage into Medicare Part B where premiums will rise and fewer services be offered. And, as if cutting seniors off health care plans providing the coverage they need isn't enough, the proposal also would rip another \$37.1 billion from Medicare.

Additional cuts to Medicare include reducing support for oxygen equipment, inpatient rehab for stroke victims, physician payments, wheelchair services, home health care, hospital payments, skilled nursing care in nursing homes, dialysis services, and cancer and cardiac patients' imaging services. The measure also makes it more expensive for employers to provide health care to the working poor, and increases health costs for small businesses.

All of these Medicare cuts come while NO effort is made to provide insurance to the nearly 700,000 American children who are living at up to 200 percent of the poverty level. This perilous turns our priorities upside down and pits vulnerable children against vulnerable seniors. Sadly, the rush to drive this measure through the House in less than a week appears to be more about playing politics than about taking time to walk through the proposal, debate details, and understand the consequences it will have on millions of American families and seniors. I do not believe that is any way to demonstrate leadership, which is why I will continue to fight against this ill-advised legislation. To read a *Lansing State Journal* article on this issue, please [click here](#).

Rogers Secures \$8.5 Million for MSU Agriculture Research, Bio-Technology

I am pleased to report that \$8.5 million included in the agricultural appropriations measure adopted by the House last week will allow Michigan State University and a Lansing bio-tech firm to continue research in several key agriculture areas. The measure now awaits Senate approval.

Agriculture is a key component in Michigan's economic future. Cutting edge technology is crucial as the state works to rebuild its economy and be competitive in today's global economy. The following are priorities I requested in the FY2008 Agriculture Appropriations Act that received funding in the bill:

- Michigan State University received funding for research of wood utilization, bovine tuberculosis, sustainable agriculture practices, apple fire blight prevention, improved fruit practices and cherry armillaria root rot. The Michigan Biotechnology Consortium, based in Lansing, received research funding to accelerate development of bio-based industrial product technologies critical for the sustainability of the agricultural and rural economy.

For a story from Michigan State University's *State News* on the new funding, 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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