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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6115**

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July 12, 2007

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## We Must Stop Paying the "New" China Price

*It is time to strengthen our regulatory system against tainted imports*

Dear Colleague:

For years, American manufacturers feared what was commonly known as "The China Price," the cost of making something in China for 30 percent to 50 percent less than it cost to make in the United States. American manufacturers still face that threat. Now, a new threat has arisen.

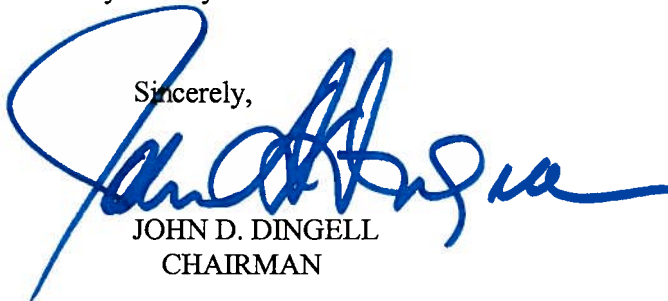
As we have all witnessed in recent weeks, there is now a "New" China Price: the price of tainted food, tainted drugs, lead-tainted children's products and other defective products entering the U.S. marketplace. In particular, we have learned that the food imports were contaminated not for terrorist purposes, but for greed. Unfortunately, our regulatory system cannot currently protect the public health from tainted imports. And the problem is not limited to one country.

Next week, the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold its second hearing on the ability of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to assure that the safety and security of our Nation's food supply.

I will also be introducing legislation shortly to address this important issue. Among other things, it will strengthen our regulatory system to ensure the FDA has the resources it needs to increase inspections of imported food and drugs. Further, it will provide additional authorities to the FDA to ensure that it can effectively monitor and control food and drug imports entering the United States. In addition, it will provide resources for research on effective testing techniques at the border to aid inspectors in identifying adulterated imports.

I look forward to working with all stakeholders in crafting legislation that effectively protects the American public from tainted imports from any country.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL  
CHAIRMAN