

the
JEFFERSON

R E P O R T



U.S. House of Representatives

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Jefferson Leads Fight Against Steel Tariffs to Protect Jobs and Consumers

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman William J. Jefferson is leading the fight in Congress to challenge the President's decision to impose a 30 percent tariff on imported steel products from selected countries. Jefferson claims that the protectionist decision will cause New Orleans and America to lose thousands of jobs and result in higher consumer prices for automobiles and home appliances.

Jefferson recently introduced legislation to disapprove the President's proposal to impose the tariffs on imported steel and accept a lower 20 per cent tariff declining to 11 per cent over four years that was recommended by the International Trade Commission (ITC).

"Although a 0% tariff would be ideal, a twenty percent maximum tariff is better than the 30 per cent maximum tariff that the President wants," Jefferson said. "The ITC recommendation will cost far fewer jobs in America's shipping, port and manufacturing industries."

The sole remedy to the President's action under the Trade Act of 1974, is for Congress to disapprove his tariff recommendations and accept the ruling of the ITC. Jefferson predicted hundreds of thousands of workers, at the Port of New Orleans and at other ports throughout the country as well as businesses downstream from the ports, would be affected directly by increased tariffs.

"Workers such as stevedores, crane operators, longshore workers, ship pilots, ship agents and truck drivers rely on steel imports for their livelihoods. Now is not the time to impose tariffs or other draconian import restrictions that would harm industries that are key participants in the American economy. We should not sacrifice the economic and employment opportunities resulting from free trade by imposing high tariffs on steel," Jefferson said.

Experts predicted that the steel tariff decision could open a trade war; and, already Russia has indicated that American chicken would be boycotted and representatives from the wheat industry are prepared for a tariff assault on grain exports.

"This decision could spark a global trade war and does not represent the best thinking

Reject High Steel Tariffs



Congressman William J. Jefferson makes the case against steep imported steel tariffs at a news conference following a conference between U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick and representatives from the Port of New Orleans and other ports across the country and the International Longshoremen's Association. James Campbell, President of New Orleans ILA Local 3000 (far left) and Congressman David Vitter participated in the Zoellick meeting and news conference.

of a free-trade Administration," the New Orleans congressman said.

Before the President decided on the 30 per cent imported steel tariffs, Jefferson convened a meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick, where representatives from the Ports of New Orleans, Houston, Tampa and Philadelphia as well as the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) presented the case against steep tariffs.

New Orleans Port Commissioner Donald Schulingkamp and ILA Local President James Campbell explained that import steel trade provides economic benefits of over 8,000 jobs and \$300 million in business revenue, predicting that steep tariffs would cost jobs and seriously harm the local economy.

"IT" Legislator of the Year

The Information Technology Industry Council named Congressman William Jefferson as "Legislator of the Year" for 2001, recognizing his support and leadership on key information technology issues.

"The IT Industry achieved several important goals in 2001 thanks to the valuable contribution of Congressman Jefferson," said Rhett Dawson, President of ITI. "He understands the importance of the IT industry to America's economy and that the continued success of this industry is dependent upon sound public policy decisions."

ITI member companies include Agilent Technologies, Amazon.com, AOL Time Warner, Apple Computer, Canon U.S.A., Compaq, Corning, Dell, Eastman Kodak, EMC, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Intel, Lexmark, Microsoft, Motorola, National Semiconductor, NCR, Panasonic, Siebel, Siemens, SGI, Sony, StorageTek, Sun Microsystems, Symbol Technologies, Tektronix and Unisys.

Jefferson Votes Pro-Environment

The League of Conservation Voters' annual analysis of pro-environment votes in 2001 once again shows that Congressman William Jefferson leads the Louisiana delegation on votes that the group believes will improve air and water quality.

"I've always believed that it is important that a Member of Congress should work to preserve and improve the environment. We can't afford to compromise the future of America's next generations by ignoring the effect of pollutants on our environment," Jefferson said.

The LCV is a non-partisan organization that works full time to educate voters about environmental voting records in Congress.

Information Technology Award



Rhett Dawson, ITI President (far left); Adrienne Rhone (left) and Dennis Roberson, IBM, and ITI Chairman and Exec. VP of Motorola, Inc. (right) present Congressman William J. Jefferson with the Information Technology Industry Council Legislator of the Year award.

Congress Extends Unemployment Benefits

Congressman William Jefferson praised the U.S. Congress for the recent passage of an economic stimulus package that will provide real and immediate assistance to the more than 15,000 Louisianians who have exhausted unemployment benefits since the September 11th terrorists attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

"I am glad that Congress finally has passed an economic stimulus package. I only wish we could have done it sooner because thousands of unemployed workers have already run out of benefits and have suffered needlessly," Jefferson said.

"Unfortunately, this stimulus package didn't go far enough. Our job in Congress will not be done until we provide meaningful health care relief to the thousands of unemployed workers without health coverage."

In January alone, 356,000 workers exhausted unemployment benefits; and on average 11,000 workers exhaust benefits daily and 80,000 per week, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Also, since September 11th, more than 2 million workers have claimed and exhausted unemployment benefits.

The economic stimulus package included an additional 13 weeks of extended unemployment insurance benefits, a package of tax incentives to aid the economic recovery of New York City, a 30 percent depreciation on equipment purchased after September 11, 2001 (effective for three years) and extended tax provisions that expired at the end of 2001.

Jefferson Supports Law Enforcement



Congressman William J. Jefferson recently met with representatives of the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police who congratulated him on his 100% support of their federal legislation. Thomas Tizzard (L), Treasurer, and Patrick Yoes (R), 1st Vice President, thanked the congressman for his support of the Community Oriented Police Services (C.O.P.S.) program and his pledge to fight budget cuts recommended by the Administration.

Campaign Reform Passes U.S. House

Congressman William Jefferson, a long-time supporter of campaign finance reform, recently joined with 198 Democrats, 41 Republicans and one Independent, to pass the Shays/Meehan reform legislation after heated-debate and a successful discharge petition.

Jefferson was one of only two votes in the Louisiana delegation in support of campaign finance reform.

"The biggest threat to democracy is cynicism, and today we've got too much money involved in politics. The public believes that government is for sale — that decisions can be bought — so we've got to reform the system," the six-term congressman from New Orleans said.

"You can't reform the campaign process without reforming soft money. We're all awash in money trying to compete with each other, and the movement for reform has to start with soft money," he concluded.

Jefferson joined the battle for campaign finance reform by signing a discharge petition to force final consideration of the Shays-Meehan legislation on July 31, 2001.

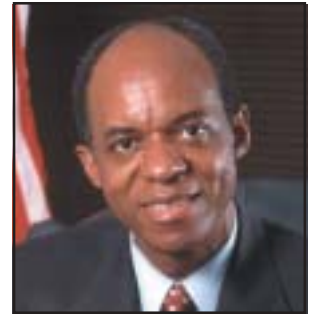
Major provisions of the Shays-Meehan campaign reform ban unlimited soft money contributions from corporations, unions and wealthy individuals to political parties, cracks down on campaign ads that claim to be issue ads, promotes voter mobilization efforts and raised individual campaign contribution limits from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per election.

Public interest groups label the "soft money ban" as the most significant element of the reform legislation, noting that soft money contributions skyrocketed over the last ten years from \$84.4 million to \$463.1 million, an increase of more than 400 percent.



Official Advocate

by Congressman William J. Jefferson



When people think of the job of a congressman, they often think first of committee hearings, speeches and votes.

Of course, committee hearings, floor debate and voting are the most watched aspects of a congressman's work. But the less visible, but very important, element is to serve you as your official advocate for area interests.

Here are just a few examples of the work a congressman does as your official advocate.

Jobs and the Economy

After Northrup Gruman – owner of Ingalls Shipyards in Mississippi – acquired the Litton/Avondale shipbuilding operations last year, I worked with our delegation to convene a Capitol Hill meeting among company executives to discuss the future plans for both shipyards. Since then, our delegation has been working closely with the U.S. Navy and Northrup Gruman to ensure that future Navy contracts and corporate economizing will result in more jobs and continued economic prosperity.

In addition, Northrup Gruman and the University of New Orleans (UNO) have formed a partnership for state-of-the-art research through the Maritime Technology Center of Excellence. To assist that effort, Congress will be asked to fund \$10 million through the Office of Naval Research for combining basic and applied research to address shipyard and industry needs.

UNO is also highly involved with

Lockheed Martin, another important space and defense contractor at the NASA Michoud facility. UNO and Lockheed Martin conduct important U.S. Department of Defense and Department of Energy research programs through the Advanced Materials Research Institute.

Urban Renewal

The recent announcement that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development had selected New Orleans as a new "Renewal Community" is another example of the benefits that result from working behind the scenes.

In 2000, when the Clinton Administration and House leader reached an impasse over opposing new urban renewal proposals, I negotiated a compromise that resulted in \$17 billion worth of tax credits and incentives that is the foundation of the "Renewal Community" program. This work surely helped New Orleans in the HUD selection process and now our local economy can benefit from \$400 to \$500 million through tax incentives and wage and tax credits

Public Transportation

This is an area where our work has proven very effective, particularly for the Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) Canal Street streetcar project. Over the years, Congress has appropriated more than \$70 million to fund the work to restore streetcars on Canal Street. That's the way it is supposed to work. But, during the 106th Congress, some of those

project funds were in jeopardy. The RTA did not have the local revenue to match the federal funds; and, for two years, our efforts concentrated on preventing congressional appropriators from re-appropriating almost \$35 million for other public transportation projects. Last year, we were back on track. RTA had the local matching funds and Congress appropriated another \$15 more for the streetcar project

The National Budget

Our delegation works hard to ensure that our region and state receive a fair share of the tax revenue we contribute to the federal government. The goal is to get back one dollar, or more, for every dollar we send to the nation's treasury.

During this year's budget cycle for FY 2003, this work will be particularly difficult since tax cuts and the cost of America's war on terrorism have led to drastic cuts in domestic programs that are important to our congressional district.

The proposed budget includes cuts to key health programs, jobs training programs, highway construction, education programs, the C.O.P.S. program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control and hurricane protection projects.

So, even when the television lights are off and the committee meetings are gavelled adjourned, a great deal of good work goes on for the people of our district in Washington – advocacy for the needs of the people of our area.

Spirit of Enterprise

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has presented Congressman William J. Jefferson with its annual "Spirit of Enterprise" Award.

"In the last session of Congress, William Jefferson was a true leader in helping build a favorable climate for business and the U.S. economy, consistently demonstrating support for legislation to increase productivity and improve jobs, bolster national security and spur economic growth," said Thomas J. Donohue, U.S. Chamber president and CEO.

The U.S. Chamber awards the "Spirit of Enterprise" based on rankings it gives Members of Congress for key business votes. Rep. Jefferson earned a 70 percent score with the Chamber last year. Key 2001 votes included granting the President Trade Promotion Authority, the Tax Relief Act, and bankruptcy reform.

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