

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee Bob Stump, Chairman

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OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN BOB STUMP ON MARK-UP OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 2001

The committee meets this afternoon to consider H.R. 2581, the Export Administration Act of 2001. The committee has this bill under sequential referral only until this Friday thus necessitating that we act today.

This bill represents the latest attempt to reauthorize this important legislation establishing how the government will regulate the flow of sensitive dual-use technologies into the global marketplace. For this committee, the challenge has always been how to ensure that the process used to make these critical decisions has the proper national security safeguards while still allowing the continued growth of the U.S. trade sector in this expanding global economy.

This is one of those policy issues for which there is no one right answer - as the outcome depends on which of the competing objectives should have primacy in such determinations.

Over the years, the committee has approached this question from the perspective that we need a set of procedures able to withstand the normal and expected pressure that any Administration is going to receive to allow competition and expansion into new overseas markets.

As history has borne out, this dynamic is not unique to Democrat or Republican Administrations, but rather the expected normal relationship between industry and government on these matters. In turn, we have an obligation to examine these policy questions with the realization that the process this legislation will put in place will get naturally pulled in the direction of more trade, more business, more jobs.

Therefore, the task before us is to ensure that the export control process has the ability to effectively and prudently weigh the national security needs of the nation when they come into conflict with the commercial interests of the private sector.

— *continued* —

The Committee today will consider H.R. 2581, as amended by the House International Relations Committee. At the outset, I must commend that committee and the leadership of Chairman Henry Hyde and Ranking Democrat Tom Lantos, for teaming up to make a number of important and needed changes to the version of the bill adopted by the Senate.

However, while this version has been significantly improved, it still falls short in a couple of specific areas mostly dealing with the ability of the Secretary of Defense to continue to play an important role in this process.

For this reason, I intend to offer a manager's amendment that makes a number of fixes and enhancements and builds on the work of the International Relations Committee. A copy of this amendment was provided to all committee members yesterday.

This amendment was developed in close collaboration with a number of committee colleagues on both sides of the aisle and is consistent with the committee's traditional approach of focusing narrowly on the national security component of this legislation. We can discuss the substance of this amendment in more depth once we turn to it.

Let me also state up front that I regret how quickly we have had to move on this legislation. I realize that this is a very complex topic and members have had little opportunity to delve into the details. However, this is the only option available to us if we are to preserve the right to act on this matter.

That said, I appreciate the cooperation of all members involved in this effort and trust that with everyone's help we can get through tonight's business in a timely and reasonable fashion. I urge all members to stay close to the proceedings as we may have record votes at any point during the mark-up.

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