



Let's Support our Troops on Memorial Day

At a time when Congress is struggling with huge budget deficits and competing national goals to fund tax cuts and support our troops overseas it just doesn't make sense to funnel hundreds of millions of tax dollars out of the general treasury and into the bank accounts of a few wealthy corporations.

But since 2000, the U.S. government has handed more than *three quarters of a billion dollars* in general treasury revenues to certain big corporations, according to the United States Treasury. The handouts are a result of a law called the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000, also known as the Byrd Amendment.

The revenues in question are border taxes known as dumping and countervailing duties designed to reduce foreign competition in our marketplace. These revenues traditionally went into the general fund until Congress changed the rules in 2000, setting off international consternation that has resulted in the World Trade Organization finding this proposal inconsistent with international trade law. In June our trade partners are expected to publish a list of American exports against which they will retaliate.

Even if it weren't inconsistent with the WTO, Americans can't afford the Byrd Amendment right now. We should continue to collect duties to protect our industry, but we shouldn't hand the revenues back to big corporations without strings attached. Instead, these revenues should go into the general treasury to be appropriated in a manner that benefits the largest possible number of Americans. One of the biggest Byrd fund recipients in 2003 is a Fortune 500 company with offices all over the world. Why would we waste precious tax dollars on corporations that don't need it?

At a time when our priorities ought to be focused on winning the war in Iraq and keeping our deficit under control, this entitlement program really ought to go. American taxpayers and service men and women deserve better.

Consumers for World Trade Urges Congress to Support HR 3933 and Repeal the Byrd Amendment without Delay



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