Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

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Record Type*: Speeches & Remarks

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: March-1994

(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: Trade

(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* Subsidy Provisions in Gatt

DOCUMENT DATE*: 03/09/1994

(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"
I want to commend my friend, the Senator from Missouri, Mr. Danforth for pressing to bring this issue to our attention.

Trade has always been handled as a bipartisan issue by this Committee. Senator Danforth deserves considerable credit for that bipartisan tradition.

I have worked with Senator Danforth on a number of critical trade issues, including the extension of Super 301, the passage of NAFTA, and negotiating authority for Republican and Democratic Administrations. Much of what the U.S. has achieved in the trade arena is the result of the mutual determination to put aside partisanship at our borders. I hope we can continue to do that with respect to the Uruguay Round.

The Round is an important agreement. It could make a positive contribution to the U.S. and the world economy and create new American jobs.

But our trade laws, particularly Section 301, countervailing duty law, and anti-dumping law also contribute to our economy and create jobs. These laws taken together have done more to guarantee U.S. businesses a fair chance to compete than any trade agreement. To weaken them in order to conclude a trade agreement amounts to taking three steps backward to go one step forward -- that is just not acceptable. I will not vote for implementing legislation unless and until I am confident that our trade laws our adequately protected.

I am working with Senator Danforth to construct a series of implementing legislation provisions which will protect our trade laws. I plan to offer provisions to make Super 301 permanent and strengthen Special 301 among other things. With these provisions, Section 301 cannot only be preserved, but strengthened. Similarly, we are working on a series of anti-dumping law provisions which can preserve and strengthen our anti-dumping law.

I am hopeful we can do the same with regard to subsidies -- the subject of this hearing. Perhaps we can establish our own counter-subsidy law to counter foreign R&D subsidies with the Advanced Technology Program and related programs. Perhaps we can ensure that the use and abuse of the new GATT subsidy program be studied by the ITC and that the agreement not be extended beyond the required five years without a vote of Congress. There are a number of possibilities.

I hope to work with the Administration and Senator Danforth to solve this problem. And I hope the Administration is willing to come to the table to honestly address the issue. Otherwise the approval of this GATT agreement is in doubt.