

UNITED STATES SENATOR • IOWA

CHUCK GRASSLEY

RANKING MEMBER • SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

<http://grassley.senate.gov>
press_office@grassley.senate.gov

Contact: Jill Kozeny, 202/224-1308
Jill Gerber, 202/224-6522

Statement of Senator Chuck Grassley
at the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Bill Mark-Up
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2001

Mr. Chairman, thanks to your leadership, today's mark-up is a bipartisan success story. First, it is a bipartisan success story for American trade policy. With our work here today, we will move one step closer to restoring America's historic half-century of world trade leadership.

Today's mark-up is also a bipartisan success story for the Finance Committee. For the second time this year, we have put aside partisan differences to do what is right for America. Earlier this year, we set aside partisan rhetoric to pass a major tax bill that put more money back into the pockets of the hard-working taxpayers who earned it. There were some people that tried to stop our bipartisan efforts. But Mr. Chairman, we got together, we worked it out, and we got it done. We did it because we thought it was the right thing to do. When we forego the opportunity to seek partisan advantage at each other's expense, we can accomplish great things for America. That's the way it should be. That's what the American people expect. And it's the way this Committee in particular has always tried to operate.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I want to commend you for your dedication and perseverance. We negotiated for many months to get this deal. It wasn't always easy going. At times, it looked like things might not work out. But you stuck it out and kept going, even during those tough moments. And for that, you and your staff deserve much credit. Our end product may not satisfy everyone. There are some who think it goes too far on labor and the environment. There are others who may think it does not go far enough. Maybe so. But our legislative system only works when people are willing to compromise, and to keep their eyes on the prize. That's what we have done here. In the long run, I am confident that the bipartisan approach we take today will reap rewards for years to come.

In that vein I will abide by our agreement to oppose all amendments to this bill in Committee and on the Senate floor with two exceptions. First, a Sense of the Senate may be offered today that Trade Adjustment and Assistance and Trade Promotion Authority should move in tandem. I understand your need to express your support for this resolution. Second, on the Senate floor we are both free to offer Trade Adjustment Assistance-related amendments, should they become part of the debate over Trade Promotion Authority, which I expect they will.

But back to our today. In my view, this is one of this Committee's finest moments. I am proud of our accomplishment. And, Mr. Chairman, I hope you are, too. I also hope, without prejudging the outcome too much, that when we are through here today, Senator Daschle will bring this legislation up on the floor as soon as possible. Our farmers, agricultural producers, ranchers, fishermen, service providers and workers know this bill means more market access, more jobs, more income, and, ultimately, greater prosperity for the American people. Let's do the right thing for them, pass this bill by a wide margin today, and approve this legislation in the Senate this year.