Hatch/Carper/Nelson

Bennet Amendment #1, as modified, to the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015

Short Title: Enhancing currency exchange rate policies to enhance surveillance and engagement, and to improve trade enforcement measures and priorities, and other purposes.

Description of Amendment: This amendment provides tools and procedures for enhanced oversight and analysis of international exchange rate policies, along with additional tools for strengthening trade enforcement.

Currency and Enforcement Act of 2015 ---

Supplements the Foreign Exchange Report: The legislation provides for supplements to existing surveillance and reporting in the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Report to Congress on International Economic and Exchange Rate Policies with a new, semi-annual, report containing enhanced surveillance of currency policies of trading partners, and additional rigorous, transparent, metrics and analyses of key macroeconomic and exchange rate policies of our trading partners, as well as the evolutions of trade and current account balances.

Enhances Accountability: The legislation creates a new mechanism based on the analyses in the foreign exchange report and supplements. The legislation directs the Treasury Secretary to enhance bilateral engagement with a country or countries based on criteria set forth in the report and supplements, or to explain how the country's currency, foreign exchange, and other macroeconomic and financial policies are addressing, in measurable ways, measured persistent imbalances.

Directs Bilateral Engagement: The legislation specifies objectives for direct bilateral engagement, to include: (1) pressure to implement policies to address causes of the imbalances, including those relating to exchange rate management; (2) clear identification of the concern of the United States regarding the adverse trade and economic effects of the imbalances; (3) development of measurable objectives for addressing imbalances; and (4) advice to the trading partner of possible remedial actions.

Provides Remedial Actions: The legislation provides that if a country fails to adopt appropriate policies to address and correct persistent imbalances, certain remedial actions would be authorized, including: (1) prohibitions on any new official financing; (2) restrictions on federal U.S. government procurement consistent with our international obligations; (3) additional efforts within the International Monetary Fund for concurrence on surveillance, monitoring, and imbalance findings, determinations of and formal consultations on findings of currency manipulation; and (4) actions with respect to assessing potential trade agreement partners. The Treasury Secretary is strongly encouraged to confer, in making such recommendations, with the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Establishes a New Advisory Committee: The legislation provides for the creation of a new nine-member Advisory Committee on International Exchange Rate Policy to advise the Treasury Secretary on impacts of exchange rates on the economy of the Unites States. The Committee is selected by the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Administration and represents a diversity of interests.