

1 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS MEETING TO CONSIDER S.J. RES. 16
2 APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN
3 THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003
4 MONDAY, JULY 23, 2007
5 U.S. Senate,
6 Committee on Finance,
7 Washington, DC.

8 The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at
9 5:20 p.m., in room S-207, Mansfield Room, The Capitol,
10 Hon. Max Baucus (chairman of the committee) presiding.

11 Present: Senators Rockefeller, Conrad, Kerry,
12 Wyden, Schumer, Stabenow, Cantwell, Salazar, Grassley,
13 Hatch, Snowe, Smith, Bunning, Crapo, Roberts, and Ensign.

14 Also present: Russ Sullivan, Democratic Staff
15 Director; Bill Dauster, Deputy Staff Director and Chief
16 Counsel; Kolan Davis, Republican Staff Director and Chief
17 Counsel; Dean Zerbe, Tax Counsel and Senior Counsel to
18 the ~~Chairman~~; Carla Martin, Chief Clerk; Mark Blair,
19 Deputy Clerk; and Jewel Harper, Hearing Clerk.

20 Also present: Demetrios Marantis, Chief
21 International Trade Counsel; Stephen Schaefer, Republican
22 Chief International Trade Counsel, ^{AD} Aaron Cope, County
23 Officer for Burma, Office of Mainland Southeast Asia,
24 Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Eleanor Nagy,
25 Deputy Director, Office of Mainland Southeast Asia,

The Ranking Member

1 Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Claudia
2 Bridgeford, Republican International Trade Advisor.

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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MAX BAUCUS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 MONTANA, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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4 The Chairman. The meeting will come to order.

5 We meet today to consider S.J. Res. 16 which renews
6 the important ban on products of Burma. Following our
7 mark-up today we will meet in Executive Session to
8 discuss the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act.

9 "Please use your liberty to promote ours." So wrote
10 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of
11 Burma's National League for Democracy in 1997. In 1990,
12 Suu Kyi won Burma's last democratic election for Prime
13 Minister, though members of Burma's military did not let
14 her take office.

15 In 2003, the Burmese Military Junta cracked down
16 further on Suu Kyi and her followers. America responded
17 by imposing sanctions against Burma, including a ban on
18 imports.

19 Sanctions were appropriate, but because unilateral
20 sanctions often fail, Senator Grassley and I worked
21 together to ensure that the import ban on Burmese
22 products would not be open-ended. We agreed to revisit
23 the ban on an annual basis. That way we could assure
24 that sanctions remain the appropriate policy tool to
25 address America's human rights concerns with Burma.

1 Today, four years later, the situation in Burma
2 remains grave. Suu Kyi continues to be a virtual
3 prisoner in her own home. The Burmese Military Junta
4 continues to kill, rape, and drag people into forced
5 labor. The Junta arrests political activists, or causes
6 them to simply disappear. Members of the security forces
7 continue to torture, beat, and abuse detainees, and the
8 Junta has strangled what had been a growing economy.

9 Like the United States, many of Burma's trading
10 partners in Europe and Southeast Asia have deep concerns
11 with Burma's worsening conditions. They, too, have taken
12 steps to isolate the Burmese Junta. ASEAN countries have
13 previously declined to publicly express concern over the
14 human rights situation in Burma, but now some of them
15 have stepped forward.

16 For our sanctions be truly effective, however, we
17 must have a more coordinated effect with other countries.
18 We must especially work with Burma's immediate neighbors.
19 I hope that we can see more progress on that front in the
20 year ahead.

21 Given today's situation in Burma, our import ban
22 remains the right tool. For the Burmese people, the
23 Congress should renew it. Let us do so today, and let us
24 use our liberty to promote theirs.

25 Senator Grassley?

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, A U.S.
2 SENATOR FROM IOWA

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4 Senator Grassley. Yes. You have said most of what
5 I would say. I would only add this, and put my short
6 statement in the record. I would emphasize that Burma
7 poses a serious risk to peace and security in the region,
8 and this is not the time to reward the bad actions of an
9 illegitimate Burmese government. We should send a strong
10 signal to the military Junta that their ongoing behavior
11 is unacceptable.

12 The Chairman. Are there other Senators who wish to
13 speak? Any statements?

14 Senator Stabenow?

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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. DEBBIE STABENOW, A U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM MICHIGAN

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4 Senator Stabenow. Mr. Chairman, I just want to
5 thank you for bringing this forward. There is no
6 question that what has happened to Aung San Suu Kyi is an
7 outrage. All of the women of the Senate, Democrats and
8 Republicans, have joined in a special caucus. We had a
9 press conference with our First Lady, Laura Bush, a few
10 weeks ago to call for her release. I appreciate your
11 bringing this forward. I think it is important for the
12 committee to get this done.

13 The Chairman. Thank you.

14 Other statements, anybody?

15 Senator Bunning. I just wanted to say I am a co-
16 sponsor and would like to see this passed as quickly as
17 possible.

18 The Chairman. Absolutely, Senator. I agree with
19 that request.

20 And now the next order of business before the
21 committee will be to walk through the Joint Resolution.
22 Mr. Marantis, could you describe the Joint Resolution?

23 Mr. Marantis. Sure. The Joint Resolution is
24 fairly straightforward. It extends for one year the
25 import ban on products from Burma. The Burmese Freedom

1 and Democracy Act of 2003
2 import ban, but under that
3 a yearly basis. That is v
4 you essentially does.

5 The Chairman. Since
6 resolution, does anyone or
7 to that?

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8 Ms. Nagy. No.

9 The Chairman. All right. Any questions?

10 [No response]

11 The Chairman. Pursuant to the expedited procedures
12 provided for in Section 9(C)2(B) of the Burmese Freedom
13 and Democracy Act of 2003, the resolution is not
14 amendable.

15 Is there further debate?

16 [No response]

17 Senator Grassley. I would move that the resolution
18 be approved.

19 The Chairman. All those in favor, say aye.

20 [Chorus of ayes]

21 The Chairman. Those opposed, no.

22 [No response]

23 The Chairman. The ayes have it. The Joint
24 Resolution cannot be ordered because we do not have
25 enough Senators here.

1 I ask consent that we provide for a rolling quorum
2 so we can get a sufficient number of Senators to vote,
3 and Senators can then come into the room here during the
4 vote, these votes coming up on the floor, to vote.

5 Senator Grassley. Very good.

6 The Chairman. All right.

7 Senator Bunning. Should we then have a recorded
8 vote?

9 The Chairman. Let us have a recorded vote. It
10 makes it a little more copacetic. All those in favor,
11 signify by saying "aye". The Clerk will call the roll.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Rockefeller?

13 The Chairman. Aye by proxy.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Conrad?

15 The Chairman. Aye by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Bingaman?

17 The Chairman. Aye by proxy.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Kerry?

19 The Chairman. I am sorry, we do not have a proxy.

20 The Clerk. Mrs. Lincoln?

21 The Chairman. Aye by proxy.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Wyden?

23 The Chairman. Aye by proxy.

24 The Clerk. Mr. Schumer?

25 The Chairman. Aye by proxy.

1 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?
2 Senator Stabenow. Aye.
3 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?
4 The Chairman. Aye by proxy.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Salazar?
6 Senator Salazar. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
8 Senator Grassley. Aye.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Hatch?
10 Senator Hatch. Aye.
11 The Clerk. Mr. Lott?
12 Senator Grassley. Aye by proxy.
13 The Clerk. Ms. Snowe?
14 Senator Grassley. I do not have the Snowe proxy.
15 The Clerk. Mr. Kyl?
16 Senator Grassley. Aye by proxy.
17 The Clerk. Mr. Smith?
18 Senator Grassley. Aye by proxy.
19 The Clerk. Mr. Bunning?
20 Senator Bunning. Aye.
21 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?
22 Senator Crapo. Aye.
23 The Clerk. Mr. Roberts?
24 Senator Grassley. Aye by proxy.
25 The Clerk. Mr. Ensign?

1 Senator Grassley. Aye by proxy.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

3 The Chairman. Aye. The vote will be held open so
4 we can get the requisite number of Senators to vote for
5 it other than by proxy. We do not have a quorum now
6 anyway. We need 11. So the committee will stand in
7 recess until we get the proper number of Senators.
8 Again, Senators who wish to vote should come to this room
9 to vote.

10 The vote will be open until the appropriate time
11 when we get enough Senators. The appropriate time will
12 probably be when we meet in executive session to go over
13 the currency bill, which will begin immediately at the
14 beginning of the second vote.

15 Senator Grassley. I thought I got a message that
16 there will only be one vote.

17 The Chairman. One vote? All right. So in
18 executive session on the currency we will start, let us
19 say, 15 minutes after the vote begins. All right. Thank
20 you.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Smith?

22 Senator Smith. Aye.

23 The Clerk. Mr. Smith, aye.

24 Mr. Conrad?

25 Senator Conrad. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Conrad, aye.
2 Mr. Ensign?
3 Senator Ensign. Aye.
4 The Clerk. Mr. Ensign, aye.
5 Mr. Roberts?
6 Senator Roberts. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Roberts, aye.
8 Senator Roberts. Thank you.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, we have 14 ayes.
10 The Chairman. All right. We have 14 ayes. S.J.
11 Res. 16 is agreed to.
12 [Whereupon, at 5:34 p.m. the meeting was concluded.]
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I N D E X

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STATEMENT OF:

THE HONORABLE MAX BAUCUS A United States Senator from the State of Montana	3
THE HONORABLE CHARLES E. GRASSLEY A United States Senator from the State of Iowa	5
THE HONORABLE DEBBIE STABENOW A United States Senator from the State of Michigan	6

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Max Baucus, Chairman

Monday, July 23, 2007

219 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Agenda for Business Meeting

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 16) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 16

Approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese
Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2007

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. REID, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

JOINT RESOLUTION

Approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in
the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That Congress approves the renewal of the import restric-

1 tions contained in section 3(a)(1) of the Burmese Freedom
2 and Democracy Act of 2003.

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