



**CONGRESSMAN
BEN CARDIN**
WELCOME TO MARYLAND'S 3RD DISTRICT



Congressman Ben Cardin - Maryland's Third District

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Dear Friends,

Last year our trade deficit topped \$724 billion -- and, unfortunately, it is only getting worse.

New figures recently released by the U.S. Department of Commerce should worry every American. In one month, the U.S. trade deficit jumped from \$65.1 billion in December 2005 to \$68.5 billion in January 2006 -- a whopping 17.6% increase from January 2005.

Unfair trade practices place American workers, farmers and businesses at a competitive disadvantage. We can compete with any country in the world - as long as the rules of trade are fair and equitable.

But, that's not happening today. We need to be much more aggressive in enforcing U.S. trade laws, particularly before the World Trade Organization (WTO). To accomplish that goal, I recently introduced *The Restoring America's Competitiveness Act, HR 5043*, (TRACA) to defend our rights before the WTO and level the playing field for U.S. products.

For more information about this legislation, please click [here](#) to read a summary of the bill.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress



CONGRESSMAN CARDIN UNVEILS COMPREHENSIVE TRADE PACKAGE

Rep. Cardin is joined by Leo W. Gerard at a press conference on Captiol Hill as he introduces *The Restoring America's Competitiveness Act* which is aimed at overhauling U.S. trade laws. "We cannot allow unfair trading practices to place our nation at a competitive disadvantage," said the Congressman. Also supporting the bill is Joseph Mayer, President of the Copper & Brass Fabricators.

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Previous Survey Question Results

Would you support legislation that would prohibit foreign-government owned entities from operating U. S. seaports?

Answer	Percent
Yes	68%
No	31%

New Survey Question

Do you support stronger enforcement of U.S. rights under trade agreements?

- Yes
- No

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Please feel free to send this newsletter to others who may be interested in this issue.
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