

## LARSON SIGNS PETITION TO FORCE GOP LEADERSHIP TO ALLOW VOTE ON BILL BOOSTING U.S. MANUFACTURING

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WASHINGTON, D.C.- U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) today signed a discharge petition designed to bring legislation that would protect U.S. manufacturing jobs to the House floor for a vote. A discharge petition is a legislative procedure to force the House Leadership to bring a bill to the floor. It requires the signatures of a majority - 218 - of House members.

The Jobs Protection Act, H.R. 1769, would repeal the U.S.'s Foreign Sales Corporation/ Extraterritorial Income (FSC/ETI) tax provisions. The FSC provisions permit U.S. exporters to exempt between 15 and 30 percent of their export income from U.S. taxes. This has caused the European Union to threaten retaliatory tariffs because the World Trade Organization has ruled that these tax exemptions are prohibited. The bill also provides transitional relief to companies currently receiving the FSC/ETI benefit, and provides permanent tax relief to make U.S. companies more competitive in the global market, resulting in an increase in U.S. manufacturing jobs.

"The nation has lost roughly 2.8 million manufacturing jobs since President Bush took office, with Connecticut alone losing 39,500," said Larson. "It is my hope that this discharge petition will force the Republican Leadership to allow a vote on this bi-partisan legislation that will aid U.S. manufacturers and protect American workers. The Bush Administration is on the record in support of outsourcing, with the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors calling outsourcing 'a good thing.' I could not disagree more. Congress needs to act now to protect not only manufacturers, but the American dairy farmers, sugar producers, citrus growers, and others, that could pay hundreds of millions of dollars in tariffs over the next year, making their goods harder to sell."

The legislation, sponsored by Reps. Crane (R-IL), Manzullo (R-IL), Rangel (D-NY), and Levin (D-MI), currently has a bi-partisan group of 164 co-sponsors. The discharge petition was introduced by Rep. Baron Hill (D-IN).

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