

Subject: Please oppose Permanent Free Trade with China  
Date: Sat, 06 May 2000 18:45:13 -0400  
From: Eddie and Laura Konczal <ednlaura@postoffice2.bellatlantic.net>  
Reply-To: ednlaura@bellatlantic.net  
To: Rush Holt <rush.holt@mail.house.gov>

Dear Honorable Rush Holt,

I am a resident of Monroe Township (12th Congressional District, New Jersey), a registered Democrat, and a constituent of yours. I wrote to you back in February concerning my support for Bill Bradley in his now-ended presidential race, and I thank you for your response to my letter.

Today, I write to you regarding the proposed legislation that would grant permanent most-favored nation status to China. I believe such legislation would be a grave error for many reasons.

First and foremost, this act would announce to the world that the United States of America values the accumulation of economic wealth above human rights. This in and of itself would compromise our position as a moral leader on the world stage.

On a more pragmatic level, this legislation would forfeit our last bargaining chip in our efforts to dissuade Chinese government from exploiting its working class. It is well established that the Chinese have made steps towards establishing human rights when they feared that most-favored nation status was in danger of not being renewed by the U.S. Congress.

Finally, the argument that establishing permanent free trade with China is the only way to help China's downtrodden working class is specious, perhaps the worst permutation of trickle-down economics. The theory that improving the profits of multi-national corporations would eventually improve conditions for laborers is pure voodoo economics, a relic of the Reagan-Bush era that should be dismissed out of hand.

I sincerely hope you will oppose this legislation. A commitment to human rights is the cornerstone of democracy and moral leadership. We must continue to oppose those who would deny fundamental rights to their citizens. Only by placing the welfare of humanity above economic concerns can we hope to promote freedom, liberty and equality throughout the world.

Best regards,

Edward F. Konczal  
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