

October 20, 2003

The Honorable Trent Lott
United States Senate
487 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-2262

Dear Senator Lott:

In August of this year our trade deficit with China hit a one-month record of \$11.7 billion dollars – one-quarter of the entire US trade deficit. The imbalance with China in 1993 was \$23 billion, and last year had grown to \$103 billion. As a nation it is time that we show the Chinese that we are serious when it comes to protecting our own interests.

As Governor of Mississippi, I am asking you to support S.1586, the bill recently introduced by Senator Schumer that would levy a 27.5% percent tariff on Chinese imports to the United States unless they comply with fair trade practices. The bill would provide real penalties for the Chinese if they continue to use unfair and artificial means to keep the yuan undervalued. By introducing real penalties, it will also offer real relief to textile and manufacturing workers in Mississippi and across the nation who are being hurt by China's unfair actions. The legislation has bipartisan support, including the sponsorship of Senators Bunning of Kentucky, Dole of North Carolina and Graham of South Carolina, and would go a long way towards providing real solutions to the problem caused by unfair foreign trade practices.

S.1586 is currently in the Senate Finance Committee. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I hope that Mississippi can count on you to use the influence you wield and the respect you have earned from your colleagues to bring this bill out of committee and onto the floor for a full vote.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

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