

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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JAPAN TRADE UPDATE

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Senate today passed a resolution by a vote of 88-8 in support of USTR's efforts to open the Japanese market to American automotive products and expresses the strong support for imposing sanctions if the talks fail. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole's remarks follow:

This resolution is not an example of Japan-bashing. The United States has now negotiated in good faith for two years in this administration. Previous administrations tried to pry open the Japanese auto market through serious negotiation. The results have been disappointing, at best.

Congress has passed market-opening trade laws because U.S. negotiators have needed effective tools. They are there to be used, if negotiations fail. They are not empty threats.

Section 301 is not a threat, it is an effective tool. I happen to believe Ambassador Kantor has wielded this tool responsibly.

That is why, if a negotiated solution cannot be found, I support the use of Section 301 to impose appropriate sanctions.

This would be strong medicine. Some people might not like it. Some people might think it disruptive.

But there has always been bipartisan agreement that the U.S. must pursue more open markets. We have always provided leadership on this issue, and we will continue to do so.

There comes a time in every trade negotiation, when all other means have been exhausted, to take strong, decisive action. That time may have come if a last minute solution cannot be found. I urge my colleagues to support this Sense of the Senate and stand up for American commercial interests abroad.

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