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**Statement by the Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Chairman**

Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection

Hearing: H.R. 4678, the “Foreign Manufacturer Legal Accountability Act;”  
and H.R. 5156, the “Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act”

WASHINGTON — “The subcommittee will come to order.

“I want to thank the Members of the subcommittee for participating in this important legislative hearing. Today, we will be considering two important bills.

“The first bill deals with products manufactured overseas that are flooding the U.S. market and are unsafe for American consumers and the second bill deals with access to global markets by American manufactured green products. Both bills aimed are protecting American jobs and American consumers.

“I would be remiss if I don’t commend Congresswoman Betty Sutton and Congresswoman Doris Matsui for taking the lead on these crucial issues.

“Last year, we were saddened by the tragedy caused by the toxic effect of Chinese drywall on consumers. The victims, sometimes from areas still reeling from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, used those drywalls to rebuild their homes and found themselves suffering from serious health problems.

“More saddening is the fact that it is very difficult if not impossible to hold accountable the foreign manufacturers of those products, here, before the United States’ court system. H.R. 4678,

– more –

the “Foreign Manufacturer Legal Accountability Act” will fix that loophole and allow the victims of foreign made products to sue the producers of those products here on U.S. soil.

“I must also say that while the U.S. market is open to global manufacturers, the contrary is not always the case. Our next bill is illustrating that fact and is also designed to bring remedies.

“Last year, this subcommittee held a hearing on how to increase the export of green technology products.

“We heard about the challenges U.S. manufacturers are facing overseas, despite the fact that U.S. technology is unquestionably one of the best. We all agree that clean energy is a vast untapped market.

“There is a large world demand for U.S. goods. But our market share in 2008 dropped from 14 to 9.2 percent. Even emerging economies are rising and are trying to replace the U.S. in its current position as a global leader in manufactured goods. It will only happen if we don’t assert that leadership.

“H.R. 5156, the “Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act will help our industry do that. It will domestically strengthen the manufacturing industry’s production capacity and also provide them with the tools that they need to boost their exports.

“We have, on several occasions, highlighted the importance of having a strong domestic policy to allow the manufacturing industry to be confident enough to penetrate the international market.

“The oil spill disaster that is currently taking place in the Gulf of Mexico is another wake up call. It reinforces the need for environmentally friendly technologies. This is where the future lies. As I said before and I will tirelessly repeat it again, *we must seize this energy opportunity or slip further behind.*

“I thank all the witnesses for being here. I am looking forward to hear your views on the bills we are considering today.

“I yield back the balance of my time.”

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