

In the past, the Mid-America Committee has proven itself an influential voice on important trade issues.

Today, you have a key role to play in the question of trade remedy laws in the North American free-trade area.

I urge you to take up the cause. Speak to your Representative in Congress, make sure that your industry associations are on side, educate your suppliers and customers to the real damage that inappropriate trade remedies cause, now and in the future.

Trade remedy laws do not promote progress. They encourage neither innovation nor efficiency. And they certainly do not enhance competitiveness, something that is vital for all of us in the face of increasingly organized global competition.

In the months ahead, while we are enjoying the friendly competition of the Black Hawks and the Maple Leafs, the White Sox and the Blue Jays, and even the Bulls and the Raptors, let's make sure that we are also finding ways to end some of the "unfriendly" competition that results from outdated trade remedy laws.

It's a winning strategy for all of us, and one that is well worth the effort.

Thank you.