

APPROVING MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS FOR CHINA

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I find myself in significant agreement with the distinguished gentleman from Michigan [Mr. Levin]. This is a confused and misleading concept, MFN. It certainly implies no approval; otherwise, we would not have extended it to 184 nations, including such paragons of virtue as Syria and Burma.

It is true that this is an important economic relationship to my State of Oregon. It means thousands of jobs in areas like technology and agriculture. But I do view China as being a threat to the world, primarily in a war on our environment, a war on the environment that frankly we in Oregon and in this country are poised to help the Chinese wage to protect it by the sale of products and services.

Mr. Speaker, 33,652 Americans lost their lives in the Korean war in no small measure because we misjudged the Chinese and their intentions.

I cannot agree more strongly with the gentleman from Michigan's hope that this is the last year we go through this exercise, and instead we work to manage our relationship with the world's most populous nation in a thoughtful and constructive fashion. The disapproval of this resolution and the continuation of MFN is an important step in that direction.