

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6539

To promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. BUCHANAN) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mongolia Third Neigh-  
5 bor Trade Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In 1992, Mongolia adopted a constitution  
9 establishing a parliamentary democracy, becoming  
10 the only country in Asia to transition from com-

1       munism to democracy. Mongolia shares land borders  
2       with only the Russian Federation and the People’s  
3       Republic of China. With a large land area and a  
4       population of only 3,255,000, Mongolia is the  
5       world’s most sparsely populated country, and its  
6       economy is highly dependent on its much larger and  
7       more populous neighbors.

8               (2) Mongolia’s success as a democracy, stra-  
9       tegic location, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and  
10      ability to pursue an independent foreign policy are  
11      highly relevant to the national security of the United  
12      States.

13              (3) Mongolia has shown its commitment to a  
14      “third neighbor” relationship with the United States  
15      by sending troops to support United States combat  
16      operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and has a  
17      strong record of troop contributions to international  
18      peacekeeping missions, including nearly 900 per-  
19      sonnel serving in the United Nations mission in  
20      South Sudan and other missions.

21              (4) Mongolia describes the United States as its  
22      most important “third neighbor”, but trade between  
23      the United States and Mongolia is substantially  
24      lower than in many of Mongolia’s other bilateral  
25      trading relationships, and has declined in recent

1 years. Total trade between the United States and  
2 Mongolia in 2012 was valued at approximately  
3 \$707,000,000, but in 2022 the United States ex-  
4 ported only \$149,000,000 in goods to Mongolia and  
5 imported only \$26,000,000 in goods from Mongolia.

6 (5) While the mining industry accounts for  
7 more than 80 percent of Mongolia’s exports by value  
8 and more than 20 percent of gross domestic product,  
9 agriculture, which accounts for 13.25 percent of  
10 gross domestic product, is a much larger source of  
11 jobs, employing around a quarter of the working  
12 population. The livestock sector accounts for more  
13 than 80 percent of agricultural production in Mon-  
14 golia.

15 (6) Since the 1940s, the annual mean air tem-  
16 perature in Mongolia has risen at 3 times the aver-  
17 age global rate. Average precipitation is declining  
18 and extreme weather disasters are more frequent,  
19 posing acute challenges for livestock herding in the  
20 country. In 2017, an estimated 700,000 animals of  
21 the country’s livestock population perished due to  
22 the post-drought extreme winter phenomenon known  
23 as “dzud”. This phenomenon has increased in fre-  
24 quency and severity in recent years, causing a rise  
25 in livestock mortality and diminishing livelihoods for

1 herders, which has led to widespread rural poverty  
2 and a contraction in the national economy.

3 (7) Mongolia would greatly benefit from pref-  
4 erential treatment for imports into the United States  
5 of certain Mongolian products. Such preferential  
6 treatment would help address some of the economic  
7 impacts of the dzuds.

8 (8) The cashmere trade is particularly impor-  
9 tant to the economy of Mongolia. While Mongolia  
10 produces approximately 40 percent of the world's  
11 raw cashmere, it produces few finished cashmere  
12 products. Mongolian raw cashmere is exported to the  
13 People's Republic of China, where it is diluted with  
14 other fibers and labeled as Mongolian. The United  
15 States buys nearly all of its cashmere products from  
16 the People's Republic of China. Preferential treat-  
17 ment for imports into the United States of certain  
18 Mongolian products, including cashmere products,  
19 would benefit the United States by facilitating in-  
20 creased direct trade with Mongolia for cashmere  
21 products while also supporting the development of  
22 value-added cashmere processing in Mongolia.

23 (9) The development of the garment industry in  
24 Mongolia would also promote women's employment  
25 and empowerment. Women have historically partici-

1 pated in the garment industry in Mongolia at high  
2 rates, and that industry has historically provided  
3 safe and stable employment for women in Mongolia.  
4 The United Nations has recognized the high num-  
5 bers of women deployed as part of Mongolia's con-  
6 tribution to peacekeeping operations.

7 (10) In developing and expanding the cashmere  
8 industry in Mongolia, it is critical for Mongolia to  
9 take steps to ensure the protection of its grasslands  
10 and prevent overgrazing of cashmere goats. Since  
11 2018, Mongolia has been working with the United  
12 Nations Development Programme to implement the  
13 Mongolian Sustainable Cashmere Platform. The  
14 Platform's objectives aim to improve cashmere  
15 traceability and Mongolia's sustainable cashmere  
16 value chain.

17 (11) Preferential treatment for imports into the  
18 United States of Mongolian products would benefit  
19 Mongolia at this critical time.

20 **SEC. 3. DUTY-FREE TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN IMPORTS**  
21 **FROM MONGOLIA.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), the  
23 President may provide duty-free treatment for any article  
24 described in subsection (b) that is imported directly from  
25 Mongolia into the customs territory of the United States.

1 (b) ARTICLE DESCRIBED.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—An article is described in  
3 this subsection if—

4 (A) the article is the growth, product, or  
5 manufacture of Mongolia;

6 (B) the article is classified under chapter  
7 51, 57, 60, 61, 62, 63, or 94 of the Har-  
8 monized Tariff Schedule of the United States;

9 (C)(i) the article is an apparel or textile  
10 article made of fabrics or fibers containing not  
11 less than 23 percent by weight of cashmere; or

12 (ii) the sum of the cost or value of cash-  
13 mere components of the article is not less than  
14 51 percent of the appraised value of the article  
15 at the time it is entered;

16 (D) in the case of an article that is a tex-  
17 tile or apparel article—

18 (i) the yarn and fabric used to manu-  
19 facture the article are wholly produced in  
20 Mongolia; and

21 (ii) the article is wholly formed and  
22 cut, or its components are wholly knit-to-  
23 shape, in Mongolia;

24 (E) the sum of the cost or value of the ma-  
25 terials produced in, and the direct costs of proc-

1           essing operations performed in, Mongolia or the  
2           customs territory of the United States is not  
3           less than 50 percent of the appraised value of  
4           the article at the time it is entered; and

5                   (F) the President determines that the arti-  
6           cle is not import-sensitive, after receiving the  
7           advice of the United States International Trade  
8           Commission as described in section 503(e) of  
9           the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463(e)).

10           (2) EXCLUSIONS.—An article shall not be treat-  
11           ed as the growth, product, or manufacture of Mon-  
12           golia for purposes of paragraph (1)(A) by virtue of  
13           having merely undergone—

14                   (A) simple combining or packaging oper-  
15           ations; or

16                   (B) mere dilution with water or mere dilu-  
17           tion with another substance that does not mate-  
18           rially alter the characteristics of the article.

19           (c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Duty-free treat-  
20           ment may not be provided under this section unless the  
21           President determines and certifies to Congress that—

22                   (1) Mongolia meets each of the requirements  
23           set forth in—

1 (A) paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of section  
2 104(a) of the African Growth and Opportunity  
3 Act (19 U.S.C. 3703(a)); and

4 (B) subparagraphs (A) through (F) of sec-  
5 tion 113(a)(1) of such Act (19 U.S.C.  
6 3722(a)(1));

7 (2) Mongolia has effectively enforced environ-  
8 mental laws, regulations, or other measures and ful-  
9 filled its obligations under international agreements  
10 relating to the environment, including as such obli-  
11 gations relate to public health; and

12 (3) after taking into account the factors set  
13 forth in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (c)  
14 of section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C.  
15 2462), Mongolia meets the eligibility requirements  
16 described in such section 502.

17 (d) VERIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO TRANS-  
18 SHIPMENT FOR TEXTILE AND APPAREL ARTICLES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1 of  
20 each year, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and  
21 Border Protection shall verify that textile and ap-  
22 parel articles imported from Mongolia to which duty-  
23 free treatment is extended under this section are not  
24 being unlawfully transshipped into the United  
25 States.



1           (2) REPORT TO PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.—

2           If the Commissioner determines pursuant to para-  
3           graph (1) that textile and apparel articles described  
4           in that paragraph are being unlawfully transshipped  
5           into the United States, the Commissioner shall re-  
6           port that determination to the President and the ap-  
7           propriate congressional committees.

8           (e) WITHDRAWAL, SUSPENSION, OR LIMITATION OF  
9           PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT AND MANDATORY GRADUA-  
10          TION.—The provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of sec-  
11          tion 502 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2462) shall  
12          apply with respect to Mongolia, without regard to whether  
13          title V of that Act (19 U.S.C. 2461 et seq.) is in effect  
14          pursuant to section 505 of that Act (19 U.S.C. 2465).

15          (f) TERMINATION OF DUTY-FREE TREATMENT.—No  
16          duty-free treatment extended under this section shall re-  
17          main in effect after December 31, 2029.

18          (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19               (1) CASHMERE.—The term “cashmere” means  
20               fine hair obtained from a cashmere goat (*capra*  
21               *hircus laniger*).

22               (2) CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF THE UNITED  
23               STATES.—The term “customs territory of the United  
24               States” has the meaning given the term in General

1 Note 2 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the  
2 United States.

3 **SEC. 4. BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.**

4 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
5 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President  
6 shall monitor, review, and provide a briefing to the appro-  
7 priate congressional committees on—

8 (1) the implementation of section 3;

9 (2) compliance of Mongolia with the eligibility  
10 requirements described in section 3(c); and

11 (3) the trade and investment policy of the  
12 United States with respect to Mongolia.

13 **SEC. 5. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**  
14 **FINED.**

15 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-  
16 mittees” means—

17 (1) the Committee on Ways and Means and the  
18 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-  
19 resentatives; and

20 (2) the Committee on Finance and the Com-  
21 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

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