



Congressman Ben Cardin

Maryland's Third District



Congressman Ben Cardin - Maryland's Third District

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Dear Friends,

Recently, I became the leading Democrat on the Trade Subcommittee of the Ways & Means Committee, and I am extremely concerned about our soaring trade deficit.

In 2004, our trade deficit grew to \$617 billion, a deficit that is unsustainable. Trade deficits of this magnitude threaten our economy and lead to massive borrowing by foreign countries. In fact, in the last four years, debt held by foreign nations has doubled and now stands at more than \$1.9 trillion, 20% of total U.S. output.

We need an immediate and dramatic shift in U.S. trade policy. I have urged the Administration to aggressively enforce our trade laws. Under trade agreements that we have signed, we have remedies for unfair trading practices. Unfortunately, too often we have failed to invoke them.

Our trading partners have made a concerted effort to win through litigation what they were unable to achieve in trade agreements. Unfortunately, we have not been just as aggressive in fighting it. On average, the Clinton Administration brought 11 cases a year before the World Trade Organization (WTO); the Bush Administration has brought only 12 in its first four years.

We need a change in U.S. trade policy that reflects the right priorities for U.S. businesses and workers.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress



**CONGRESSMAN CARDIN SURVEYS
BALTIMORE HARBOR**

As the top Democrat on the Trade Subcommittee, Rep. Cardin is very concerned about the \$671 billion U.S. trade deficit for 2004. "I am tired of watching ships arrive at the Port of Baltimore filled with cargo for U.S. consumers and then leave empty. We cannot allow trade deficits of this magnitude to continue; it causes irreparable harm to American workers, farmers and businesses and jeopardizes our economic future."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

* **Parkville Social Security Forum**

Tuesday, April 5 at 11 a.m.

Parkville Senior Center - 8601 Harford Road

* **Social Security Community Forum**

Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m.

Baldwin Hall - 4095 St. Augustine Lane, Dundalk

Yes, please send me these informational E-News Updates in the future.

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Please note that your E-mail address will not be shared with anyone.

[Previous Survey Question Results](#)

Would you support increasing or eliminating the \$90,000 income cap on Social Security payroll taxes as a way to generate more revenue and strengthen the program?

Answer	Percent
Yes	75.77%
No	24.23%
Total	100%

[New Survey Question](#)

Congressman Cardin Wants To Hear From You

Do you think free trade agreements should require foreign companies to comply with fair international labor and environmental standards?

Yes

No

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