1 BS2005 vs. MRC2007

- I like the way you use Bagwell and Staiger (2005) as your benchmark. But I also wondered whether Maggi and Rodriguez-Clare (2007, henceforth MRC) also offered a useful benchmark. I know you did have comparisons to their paper in many places but it would be useful if this could be more systematic, and if your paper could draw careful parallels to your assumptions and theirs. In both papers, the government wants to set a tariff cap in order to be able to extract rents from lobbies afterwards. But your mechanisms seem quite different. They have capital mobility whereas your factors are specific to each sector. If capital is highly immobile they have a hold-up problem, which creates an incentive for lobbies to try to prevent too much liberalization under the agreement. What drives this feature in your model? Here I think it would be useful to explain carefully the sequence of events in your set-up more carefully. What is the relationship between lobby effort level and tariff policy? Is effort fixed first, after which the government sets its tariff? If so it seems to me that would drive a kind of hold-up because lobbying effort is sunk. It would be useful to be clearer about this so we can really understand where the results are coming from and how they compare to MRC.

- DGH / MRC analogy from JIE_revision

  - After Prop1 is a good place to start to put references to MRC 2007

  - The fact that the applied tariffs are equal to the negotiated binding is reminiscent of Maggi and Rodriguez-Clare 2007. Exactly the same dynamic is at play here: specifying trade agreement tariffs as caps instead of strong bindings keeps the lobby active during periods where the trade agreement is honored. In Appendix B.3, I analyze the model with strong bindings and show that the results would be altered in magnitude but not in spirit by assuming that the trade agreement tariffs are strong bindings instead of tariff caps. The only change to the model is that under strong bindings there would be zero lobbying effort during a trade agreement phase as the lobby would not need to exert effort to bid protection levels up to the trade agreement tariff. There would still be no disputes in equilibrium, but the lobbying constraint is easier to satisfy with strong bindings because the gap between trade war and trade agreement profits shrinks when the lobby stops exerting effort to receive the trade agreement tariff. Because lower trade agreement tariffs can be sustained under strong bindings, executive and legislators with small political economy weights prefer a strong-binding agreement and legislators with high political economy weights prefer a weak-binding

agreement. A tariff cap makes the lobby's self-enforcement constraint harder to satisfy and thus requires a higher trade agreement tariff for self-enforcement. From the ex-ante point of view, strong bindings are therefore preferable. Tariff caps could be viewed as a way to commit to setting higher trade agreement tariffs and therefore as a mechanism for ensuring that rents are distributed to protectionists ex-post.

- MRC07

  - Need case of fixed capital ($z = 0$)
  - NB (p. 1391): optimal trade agreement if lobbies have all the bargaining power and no ex-ante lobbying is free trade
    * Page 26-28 of working paper has government with all the bargaining power (and no capital mobility, but remember that the capital owners choose where to invest in the first period). Here, could be free trade but could be interior to get some rents.

2   Lit review

- Find MRC cites (maybe some in Ethier) for why PE shocks can't be addressed

  - Bagwell and Staiger 1999 AER

- Have to make connection to endogenous papers clearer

  - More on Coates & Ludema (2001)
  - Check out Ben and James new paper

- Paola: How do I want to sell the paper?

  - In relation to what literature?
    * What literature does endogenous? Coates-Ludema 2001, MRC, GH
    * What literature *doesn't*?

- Review Bown, Bagwell & Staiger

- Do I include papers like BS2001 (non-repeated) in lit review?

- Read Rosendorff & Milner (2001) [from Cristiane Carneiro at PEIO]

- Kyle: McLaren in his chapter calls the Grossman and Helpman setup with contributions 'felonious'

- David DeRemer: Safeguards have dropped off in use around the world

  - Look at U.S. vs. ROW (he sent papers)
  - Wouters and Zissimos (2016 WP): Appellate Body failed to give clear direction in cases in early 2000s as to when Safeguards can be applied. See Sykes (2003).

3   More on escape clause / WEC

- The part I really liked was when you analysed the exogenous and endogenous effects on gamma simultaneously around page 28. In fact I was itching to get to that part right from when you discussed it in the introduction.

  - The paper makes the extremely important point almost in passing. I would be interested to see a more detailed examination of how this works. It's particularly interesting that in the presence of a shock the governments will use the escape clause as intended but without a shock a lobby group would always 'step into the breach' and cause it to be abused. I would like to see the paper devote more attention to the conditions under which this problem arises and when it does not.

- 'Withdrawal of equivalent concessions' (WEC).

  - Zissimos (2007): a government **'chooses the severity of its own punishment'** by the extent of its initial deviation. I'm wondering whether your framework offers an answer for why WEC made sense as an approach to punishment.
  - Under WEC, it is worth deviating from the agreement in proportion to s because your partner deviates to the same extent and that keeps the agreement on track; the point first made by Bagwell and Staiger (1990).
  - But WEC might eliminate the incentive to respond to lobbying pressure e because when your trade partner deviates by WEC this takes away from you exactly (in a symmetrical framework) what you gained from the lobby for implementing a deviation of that size.
    * **Think about how WEC may mitigate LOBBY'S incentives through reaction of gov't**
    * Ben doesn't have any need for escape; have to put WEC into my framework
    * Government feels γ the same whether it's elevated because of s or e
    * What is the neutralizing that happens? Why would the government invoke EC when it knows that WEC is coming anyway? Because it's in another sector where it puts less weight right now?

* WEC should work against TOT, not PE shock?
    – I would find an examination of WEC much more compelling that the approach to punishment that you currently discuss on page 20, whereby two bindings are negotiated.
    – I say I'm going to do this on Page 27. Need to decide and either do it or take this out.

- Puzzle to explain: WEC has an effect here, and that effect is weakened by the change in EC rules during the Uruguay Round, even though no retaliation for 3 yrs
    – "Why Are Safeguards under the WTO So Unpopular?" (World Trade Review 2002),
    – Need to understand better what changed, both with safeguard and with other policy instruments
    – Note that safeguards agreement states that safeguard can only be at level necessary to remedy injury, and must liberalize as possible
    – **perhaps better able to respond to $\gamma(e)$ before dispute settlement?**
        * Lack of effective enforcement before WTO?

- What does WTO *really* want? To discourage rent-seeking lobbying but allow governments to escape when there's a real shock.
    – There may be legitimate lobbying to communicate about the shock, so can't look at the presence of lobbying as a sufficient statistic

- Does WEC help or hurt vs. grim trigger, T period Nash reversion?

4 Costly state verification

- Have you seen the work that Beshkar and Bond have done on what they call 'contingent protection'? I can't remember if they are drawing on the work of other people when they refer to the escape clause as 'costly state verification.' This seems to provide an alternative way of separating genuine shocks from those created by lobby groups. How does your approach relate to costly state verification?

- I say that I'm going to provide a result along the lines of Beshkar 2010b. Same or different from costly state verification? Which is more helpful?

- Need to check this for sure in new section. I don't have cost to verification.

5 Dynamic use constraint

When would lobby exert effort to top up?

- Do I want correlation between endogenous/exogenous parts?

6 Motivation

- What it's missing: Well articulated question / paradox (I think it's just not well-articulated)

- Intro doesn't reflect body of paper

- What kinds of empirical questions might we ask with this model?

- What would be different because we use this model?

- Starting from the introduction, I think you make a convincing case that it is important to endogenize the extent of political pressure and I believe this would be THE selling point of the paper. However, you have not completely sold your contribution and its novelty that you bring in the issue of the objective function of the government. Is this aspect crucial for the point you want to make? If yes, it should be integrate with the previous object from the beginning. If not, it should be postponed a bit.

- I also find the introduction too long. You could/should split the literature review that begins on page 4 to a separate section. And in any case, I found that you don't engage with the literature in terms of how you contribute/differentiate from it. Again, your main point seems to get lost into the discussion instead of standing out.

- You need to think a bit more about the objective(s) of the paper and how best to achieve them.

- Intro: GH gives micro foundations. But there are real consequences of endogenous politics.

7 Big picture of which changes do what

	rigid	escape
BS2005	on-schedule (truthtelling): trivial; off (repeated): optimal static if patient enough	need cost
$\gamma(e)$	on: trivial off: mabye not b/c of lobby	no need, but revisit side payments
$\gamma(e,s)$	ignore for now	is s verifiable? def not w/$\gamma(s,e)$

- Make sure this story is clear in text: I establish baseline tariff cap case, then add escape clause. We can already see a story of ... emerge...

- Need to be clear when it is flexibility, enforcement, endogenous γ that screws things up. THEN need to bmake sure it comes out in paper

- May want to ditch repeated game part...

8 One good idea / do too much

- You can have one good idea in a paper, the rest get lost

- At the moment, I find the paper a bit unstructured in that it does a lot but it doesn't sell in a neat and clear way what it is doing.

- The paper is already too long and divided into too many sections but that goes back to my first comment about identifying the key issue/contribution: endogeneity of political pressure and/or objective function.

9 Misc.

- Specialize to BS2005 when necessary (tariff cap example)

- They don't like gov't choosing its own preferences. May just need to change wording.

- Define γ before using it

- If add back in assumption 1, add Ethier footnote

- standardize $\gamma(e, s)$, $\gamma(e)$, $\gamma(s)$ throughout the text

- Peter: $\gamma(e)$ and $\gamma(s)$ combination is interesting, so it dynamic choice of protection over time, gov't turnover [add to conclusion, it's in slides]

- Ben: I'm wondering how you view the time-frame over which your model is set. On one hand a specific-factors set-up is normally associated with the short-run. But on the other hand you have an infinite time horizon which suggests very long run.

- Clarify information structure

- Move footnote about TOT externality (fn:tot) into text and make paragraphs flow together

- Add ref to JIE R&R to fn:krw ?

- Expand Proposition 2 (res:repeated) to compare to exogenous case, say what $\tau_{W,e}^{R}$ IS. Perhaps not all of that IN the proposition.

- Need more sign-posting in the three last paragraphs of Section 4.2. Maybe make Section 4.3 a new top-level section.

10 Existence proofs?

Current structure of paper (August 25, 2016)

1. Introduction

2. Model

3. Rigid Tariffs with Endogenous Political Pressure

   3.1 Perfect External Enforcement. Proposition 1: weak bindings and ext. enforcement imply applied tariff = binding and may use binding to encourage or restrain lobbying

   3.2 Self-Enforcing Trade Agreements

      3.2.1 Repeated Game

      3.2.2 Prop 2: No ext enforcement: self enforcing implies $\tau^a \leq$ optimal binding with external enforcement

4. Endogenous Political Pressure and the Escape Clause

   4.1 Strong bindings: no cost when $\gamma(e)$ only

   4.2 Side payments: spirit not upheld, but IC

   4.3 $\gamma(s, e)$, Prop 3: lower binding never used

   4.4 EC for endogenous politics

5. Conclusion

For Later

1. Add export lobby.

   - Extension or appendix b/c want to make comparison to existing literature.