

The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that it will increase our export of goods by at least \$10 billion a year.

That's not even counting the high-value services in which our country leads the world, which are now largely shut out of many areas of South Korea's economy.

The Administration estimates that at least 70,000 jobs will result from the free trade agreement with South Korea alone.

That means paychecks for 70,000 American families.

The years of delay in sending this agreement to Congress since it was first signed in 2007 have put U.S. businesses at a severe disadvantage.

Earlier this year, the European Union's free trade agreement with South Korea went into effect, giving their companies a major boost and resulting in lost sales for American companies and lost jobs here in the U.S.

But there is more at stake than just increased exports.

South Korea is a key U.S. ally in an unstable region of the world, where tens of thousands of U.S. troops stand on guard against aggression, and where U.S. interests are increasingly under threat from China and other countries.

At a time when much of the world is waiting to see if the U.S. will retreat from its responsibilities, passage of this free trade agreement will serve as a clear demonstration of our enduring commitment to our ally South Korea and our determination to defend our interests throughout East Asia.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade agreement and for the creation of tens of thousands of jobs for the many Americans who desperately need them.

OPPOSITION TO THE KOREA, PANAMA, AND COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in opposition to the Korea, Panama, and Colombia Free Trade Agreements.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF TEAMSTERS,

Washington, DC, June 15, 2011.

*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.4 million men and women of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I am writing to urge you to oppose the three pending so-called free trade agreements (FTAs)—South Korea, Colombia, and Panama—when they reach the floor of the House for a vote. All three agreements are modeled after the job-killing North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Trade agreements based on the NAFTA model have resulted in nearly two million job losses in the U.S. The three pending FTAs continue this trend. With the unemployment rate at a record high of more than nine percent, we must focus on job creation and growth in the U.S. Not only will these trade agreements result in job losses, they

will further exploit workers and deny basic human rights.

The South Korea FTA is projected by the Economic Policy Institute to cause job losses of 159,000 in the U.S. and the International Trade Commission estimates the trade deficit will increase in seven high-paying sectors. In addition, the South Korea HA forbids reference to the International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions.

The South Korea FTA's investment chapter would give South Korean investors rights to challenge U.S. laws, regulations, and even court decisions in international tribunals that circumvent the U.S. judicial system. Any potential benefit from reduced tariffs would be mitigated, as South Korea is one of the three countries that the U.S. Department of Treasury lists as a currency manipulator.

Even more troubling is that the South Korea FTA lacks assurances that products assembled in South Korea will not contain parts from North Korea's Kaesong Industrial Complex.

These three pending agreements insult basic human rights. The country of Colombia remains the global capital for violence against workers; more unionists are killed every year in this country than any other country. Most recently, a lawyer representing sugarcane workers was gunned down in May—only five weeks after a so-called U.S.-Colombia Labor Action Plan was released.

Nearly 2,680 unionists have been murdered in the country. Only six percent of the murders have been prosecuted. Most are never even investigated. In June, a Colombian rights leader campaigning for the return of land snatched by illegal militias was gunned down. While the Action Plan is a step in the right direction, it does not go far enough to ensure enforcement and compliance. We must see real improvement in labor laws and a stop to the killing of unionists in Colombia, before any trade agreement is approved. Simple public relations gimmicks and laws that go unenforced are not enough.

The Colombia FTA will result in the further displacement of the country's Afro-Colombian population. The country has the highest population of displaced people, an estimated 5.2 million. The agreement will only accelerate the displacement of impoverished Afro-Colombians and farmers.

Panama remains one of the world's top tax havens. The country is home to approximately 400,000 corporations, including U.S. firms, which incorporate in the country to avoid paying taxes. The pending Panama FTA does not require U.S. construction and other firm's equal access to work on the Panama Canal improvement project. In addition, Panama continues to be a main site for drug money laundering by Mexican and Colombian drug kingpins.

Each of these three pending trade agreements remains flawed. None will further U.S. job growth, which should be our nation's top priority. Ensuring basic human rights and dignity is a moral imperative. For economic and moral reasons, we urge you to vote against these agreements. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa P. Kinard, Director, Department of Federal Legislation and Regulation, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Sincerely,

JAMES P. HOFFA,
General President.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to H.R. 3080, the Korean Free Trade Agreement.

Earlier today, I voted to support free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama because I recognize the value of promoting trade with our neighbors.

Unfortunately, the Korean trade agreement that we're debating right now is deeply flawed, poorly negotiated, and will cost American jobs by picking winners and losers in the market place.

The textile provisions alone in the agreement will cost Americans nearly 40,000 jobs over the next 7 years. Sadly, many of those jobs will be lost in my own state of South Carolina.

While this agreement gives South Korean goods duty-free entry into the U.S. market, American exports to South Korea will still be subjected to a 10 percent Tax. That amounts to an automatic 10 percent tariff on certain US goods, putting our manufacturers at an immediate competitive disadvantage. Additionally, this agreement opens US markets to Korean goods, but doesn't guarantee the Korean market will be open for US goods.

Finally, I'm concerned about this agreement's impact on our national security as it relates to the extended domestic supply chain for industrial and military applications. These include fuel cells, oil booms, rapidly deployable shelters and tents, radar covers, Kevlar body armor for our troops, and many more advanced applications. This trade agreement could have a major negative impact on the private sector's ability to innovate and supply our military.

I strongly urge my colleagues to send this trade agreement back to drawing board. For the sake of our economic and military security, I urge a NO vote. Thank you, and may God Bless America.

JANUARY 20, 2011.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, As representatives of the domestic textile and apparel sector and its nearly 600,000 workers, we strongly urge you to oppose the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). In regards to textiles and apparel, the FTA is seriously flawed and will result in the continued outsourcing of valuable textile, apparel and other manufacturing jobs. With our nation struggling through one of the worst economic periods in its history, we believe the current agreement sends the wrong message to our workers and to American voters.

During the past forty years, Korea has developed a sophisticated industrial and apparel fabrics sector and, as a consequence, is the second largest exporter of textile yarns and fabrics to the United States. Although the U.S. textile sector is one of the most efficient and quality-driven producers in the world, the Korean economy presents virtually no export opportunities to Korea for U.S. textile producers. As a measure of this one-way trading relationship, the U.S. trade deficit in textiles and apparel totaled \$708 million in 2009.

As a result, the textile industry asked the Obama Administration to make three fixes

to the KORUS agreement in order to ensure that U.S. textile, apparel and fiber jobs were not outsourced to Korea and China. These fixes concerned (a) loopholes in the enforcement portions of the agreement that benefit China, (b) a tariff schedule that gives Korean exporters better terms than U.S. companies and (c) the exclusion of textile components in the agreement's rules-of-origin that advantage non-signatories to the agreement such as China.

These mistakes not only hurt our manufacturing workers but also damage our industry's ability to supply our military with essential goods for our men and women in uniform. In particular, Korea's producers get longer phase-out schedules than U.S. producers on a number of sensitive product lines that include products that are needed by the U.S. military. Damaging surges by Korean producers because of this inequitable arrangement will hurt U.S. companies that the military depends on for a number of important products.

Unfortunately, the Administration chose not to address the concerns of textile workers in your districts, and we are concerned that their jobs are now in jeopardy.

Polls have shown a rising concern by the American voter regarding the outsourcing of American jobs, particularly manufacturing jobs, and the decline of the U.S. as an economic power. Recent Wall Street Journal and Pew polls show voter dissatisfaction regarding badly written trade agreements is at a record high.

An analysis by the Economic Policy Institute estimates that 159,000 good paying American jobs will be destroyed if the KORUS agreement in its present form passes Congress. Of that total, we estimate that between 9,300 and 12,300 jobs will be lost specifically in the U.S. textile and apparel sector as a result of legal KORUS trade. U.S. government figures show that approximately three additional jobs are lost to the U.S. economy for each textile job that is eliminated. In addition, U.S. job losses from illegal Chinese exports are not included and these would be significant. Total U.S. job losses because of the flawed KORUS textile text are expected to be at least 40,000 jobs.

With job creation a central concern in the country, we do not believe that this agreement meets that goal. We continue to urge that the textile portions of the agreement be renegotiated in order to ensure that textile jobs are not imperiled. Until that time, we ask you to stand firm on behalf of textile workers in your district and oppose the Korean FTA when it comes before a vote in Congress.

Sincerely,

AUGGIE TANTILLO,
Executive Director,
American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition.

KARL SPILHAUS,
President, National Textile Association.

PAUL O'DAY,
President, American Fiber Manufacturers Association.

CASS JOHNSON,
President, National Council of Textile Organizations.

RUTH STEPHENS,
Executive Director,
U.S. Industrial Fabrics Institute.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
DAVID J. PALMER

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Lieutenant Colonel David J. Palmer, on the occasion of his induction as a distinguished alumnus of Mountain View High School.

After graduating from Mountain View High School in 1973, David J. Palmer enlisted in the United States Air Force as an aircraft maintenance specialist. Four years later, Mr. Palmer transferred to the U.S. Air Force Reserves, where, in 2004, he was commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Over his illustrious career, Lieutenant Colonel Palmer has earned fourteen medals and awards for his dedicated and selfless service.

Lieutenant Colonel Palmer received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Scranton and has always been diligent in service to his community. He has worked with the Northern Tier Planning and Development Commission, the Susquehanna Housing Authority, and Wilkes University. Lieutenant Colonel Palmer continues to be active in many local organizations, including sitting on the Board of Trustees for the First Universalist Church, as well as serving as a Citizenship Merit Counselor for the Boy Scouts of America's Baden-Powell Council.

Lieutenant Colonel Palmer and his wife, Luann, have two sons, both of whom are combat veterans and have received a Purple Heart and Joint Service Commendation for their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Today, the Palmers reside on their farm, near Hop Bottom, Pennsylvania, where they raise sheep and train border collies.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Lieutenant Colonel David J. Palmer, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising his commitment to community, country, and family.

(SCREEN) ACT FOR 112TH
CONGRESS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act. This legislation will remove barriers to one of the most effective preventive health screenings available, saving lives and reducing health care costs in the process. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

The statistics surrounding colon cancer are startling. Colon cancer is the number two cancer killer in the United States for both men and women. (CDC Colorectal Cancer Vital Signs; July 2011)

Over 50,000 people will die this year from this disease according to the American Cancer Society (2010 Fact & Figures).

These deaths become more tragic when one considers that colorectal cancer is highly preventable with appropriate screening. Ac-

cording to the American Cancer Society (2010 Facts & Figures), the 5 year survival rate is 90 percent for those diagnosed at an early stage; however, less than 40 percent of the cases are diagnosed at that stage.

During colorectal cancer screening by colonoscopy, pre-cancerous polyps are removed during the same encounter, thus preventing cancer from developing, as opposed to other cancer screenings where early detection is the goal. That is one reason why the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force provides an "A" rating for CRC screenings.

The CDC "colorectal cancer control program" screening target rate is 80 percent. The American Cancer Society and other patient advocacy groups have a target rate of 75 percent. Unfortunately, only half of the Medicare population is being screened, despite the availability of a Medicare colon cancer screening benefit. According to CMS and American Cancer Society (March 2011), Medicare claims indicate that only 52–58 percent of beneficiaries have had any colorectal cancer test and there is "clearly an opportunity to improve colorectal cancer screening rates in the Medicare population."

The latest findings by the American Cancer Society confirm that screening rates among the Medicare population continue to be in this 50th percentile range, with screening rates among minority populations are especially low among Medicare-aged beneficiaries.

The CDC concludes that 1,000 additional colorectal cancer deaths will be prevented each year if screening rates reached 70.5 percent. (CDC Colorectal Cancer Vital Signs; July 2011).

In addition to saving lives, colorectal cancer screening has been demonstrated to save Medicare long-term costs as noted by the New England Journal of Medicine in a recent article (Feb. 2008).

The direct costs of treating colorectal cancer in 2010 reached \$4 billion. (CDC Colorectal Cancer Vital Signs; July 2011)

I am pleased that Congress took steps to improve access to life-saving colon cancer screening when it passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act PPACA in March 2010.

While Congress has made tremendous strides in increasing colorectal cancer utilization rates in PPACA, this bill will further make live saving screenings more accessible to Medicare beneficiaries.

Currently, Medicare waives cost-sharing for any colorectal cancer screening recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. However, should the beneficiary have a precancerous polyp removed, the procedure is no longer considered a "screening" for Medicare coding purposes.

The unintended consequence of this is that the beneficiary is obligated to pay the Medicare coinsurance because the procedure is no longer a "screening." However, the purpose of the screening is to find and remove precancerous polyps.

The SCREEN Act waives all Medicare beneficiary cost-sharing for colorectal cancer screenings that become "therapeutic" or diagnostic procedures.

The legislation also resolves this unintended consequence for beneficiaries participating in health insurance exchanges beginning in 2014.

The SCREEN Act also provides incentives for Medicare providers to participate in nationally recognized quality improvement registries