

comment on a whole body politic of people, African Americans, when asked the questions why they have made choices, political choices as they have made, and he chose to suggest that African Americans are brainwashed.

I take issue, Mr. Cain, with your very unfortunate choice of words, because if you look chronologically and historically at African Americans, they voted Republican; they voted Democrat. They were in love with the idea of President Lincoln, who, of course, is known to have freed the slaves, and voted for Republicans for a number of years.

Democrats and African Americans both vote their interests, their interest in saving Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security, their interest and investment in this Nation and relief from the burdensome taxes by the Bush administration.

So, Mr. Cain, get your facts right. We're not brainwashed, and I am absolutely insulted by your ludicrous insinuation of African American intellect in choosing their political party.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as you know, our economy is in a tough situation here. Two-and-a-half years after recovery has supposedly started, we have almost 20 million Americans unable find a full-time job; yet we have companies, ranchers, businesses, technologies, small business anxious to sell their products around the world. But this administration, unfortunately, has not moved the free trade agreements that would allow us not simply to buy American, but to sell American in every corner of this globe.

I am pleased to announce that today, nearly 5 years after America signed a sales agreement, a trade agreement with Colombia, that the White House has submitted agreements, these agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama, to the United States Congress and the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. We are going to move quickly and deliberately and strongly to pass these trade agreements so we can level the playing field and allow our farmers and companies and manufacturers and workers to compete and win around the world on that level playing field.

Tonight, we have a number of distinguished lawmakers who have focused on finding new customers for our companies and our farmers here at home.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), a member of the Ways and Means Committee and Trade Subcommittee.

Ms. JENKINS. I would like to thank the honorable chairman from Texas for his leadership on the issue of trade and for yielding.

In today's global economy, it's essential that we make every reasonable effort to open foreign markets to American products. Yet today, as our country is struggling with a lackluster GDP and stagnant job creation, grocery stores in South Korea are signing long-term agreements with beef producers from Europe, not America.

Why European, not American? Well, the reason is simple. While this administration has dragged its feet in the approval process of our own agreement, the European Union was able to enact their agreement with South Korea before the United States could take up our own. Therefore, the South Koreans are able to purchase European goods—most notably, agriculture products—at a much lower rate and prices because, unlike American goods and commodities, they do not have costly tariffs attached to them. The same is true with American goods and agriculture products in Colombia and Panama.

In the first 2 weeks after the EU-South Korea agreement was passed, European exports to South Korea rose by 16 percent. We are losing market share and American businesses are losing their competitive edge all as a result of Washington's inability to pass these essential agreements that supposedly have bipartisan support.

In fact, since Canada signed their free trade agreement with Colombia, the U.S. has lost nearly 30 percent of our market share in wheat exports to Colombia. Losing 30 percent of our market share in a key commodity like wheat has a tremendous impact on a small State like Kansas.

When it comes down to it, this isn't about ideologies. This is about American jobs. President Obama has said it himself, these agreements can create 250,000 American jobs, and yet he has sat on them for nearly 3 years. These agreements have the ability to immediately create thousands of jobs, open new markets for farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers, and play a pivotal role in growing our economy out of this stagnancy.

I would like to thank the President for ending his stall tactics and finally sending these agreements to us today, and I implore my colleagues in Congress to work with us to swiftly pass these vital trade agreements. Let's have beef producers from Kansas or even Texas, Mr. Chairman, signing long-term deals with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama, not Europe or Canada.

Let's finally back up this rhetoric with action. Let's get Americans back to work.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I thank the gentlelady from Kansas for making the point that agriculture has paid a steep price as a result of the delays of these agreements, yet with the potential of signing these agreements has the abil-

ity to sell, win, and compete in these three important, growing, dynamic markets.

At this point, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS), one of the key members of the Trade Subcommittee, with a manufacturing background, who understands the need for America to lead in the global marketplace.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Thank you, Chairman BRADY. I appreciate you organizing a Special Order tonight dealing with these critical free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea.

I am encouraged that the President sent the agreement to the Hill earlier here today, and we are here to lend support to the President for these agreements and to encourage him to implement them as soon as they pass the House and Senate.

Passage of these trade agreements is long overdue and critical not just for our national economy, but also for our national security.

Through the Colombian agreement, we signal our dedication with a strategic and faithful ally. During my service in the U.S. Army, I ran U.S. Army aviation operations for the multinational force and observers in the Sinai, providing direct support and serving jointly with the Colombian military in the Middle East. In fact, they continue to serve in that same role. They are also serving in Haiti, Sierra Leone, and training militaries and police in counternarcotics and counterinsurgency measures across the globe.

U.S. leadership in our hemisphere is under threat from competitors, and the administration's inattention to Latin America is a real challenge that we are facing now. But the Colombia agreement signals our reengagement, which is critical to both our economic and our security future. U.S. exporters' share of Colombian imports fell 17 percent between 2001 and 2009, while Chinese exporter shares nearly tripled.

The trade agreement with Colombia will advance our national security interests by providing Colombians with alternatives to the drug trade. Colombia is a robust democracy with strong ties to the United States in a region that includes several increasingly anti-American governments, especially Venezuela. We must strengthen these ties and pacify any concerns about America's reliability as a partner by ratifying this trade agreement.

Similarly, implementing the Panama trade agreement will further mark our reengagement with the region, while countering anti-Americanism and China's increasing economic prominence.

The U.S. is the largest user of the Panama Canal and works closely with the Panamanian Government to ensure the safety of the canal itself. Panama is currently expanding the canal to double its capacity by allowing more and larger ships to transit. This expansion will increase the imports and exports to and from the United States

while creating the need for further cooperation between our two countries to enhance regional maritime and port security.

South Korea also serves as a critical U.S. ally, both diplomatically and militarily. Our alliance with the Republic of Korea has grown even closer since the March 2010 sinking of a South Korean naval vessel by a North Korean submarine. Currently, the U.S. maintains about 28,000 troops in the Republic of Korea, and our militaries regularly conduct joint exercises.

Our geostrategic relationship with South Korea is important not only to counteract the threat from North Korea, but also in dealing with China's military ambitions and security in the Pacific Rim.

With elections for South Korea's National Assembly and Presidency scheduled for 2012, it's critical to strengthen this vital relationship. Ratifying the South Korea trade agreement will demonstrate our commitment to this important partner and help to act as a counterweight to Chinese influence.

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Furthermore, entering into an FTA with South Korea will help reorient the alliance between our great nations to adapt to the changes on the Korean Peninsula and in East Asia. Continuing to delay ratification of the trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea could seriously harm American credibility, economic advantages for our country's exporters, and our position of global leadership.

I urge the President to implement the agreements immediately after they clear Congress for the betterment of our national economic health and our military and diplomatic partnerships.

Thank you again, Chairman BRADY, for holding this important discussion tonight on the House floor.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. DAVIS, thank you for your leadership and for making the point tonight that these agreements, as important as they are for jobs and new customers, they are also important to enhance our security relationships in the growing Asia Pacific region, and in Latin America as well. Thank you for your leadership.

Now I would like to introduce the chairman of the Korean Trade Agreement Working Group. He is a key member of the Ways and Means Committee, and comes from a region that understands exports and imports create jobs in America. I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

Mr. REICHERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank you for all of your hard work and your leadership in this area. I'm a newcomer to the world of trade, and a fairly newcomer to Congress, having been here for 6 years.

I want to talk a little bit about the frustration that I think a lot of us here in the House have been experiencing, and I think a lot of people, Mr. Speaker, across this country are feeling, and

that is a lot of frustration, a lot of anger at this Congress, the fact that we can't work together. But the good news is that today, we're going to have that opportunity. The President has finally decided to send those trade agreements that we've all been waiting for for the past 4 years to Congress so that we can have a vote on the South Korean agreement, the Colombia agreement, and the Panama agreement. And these are all important. Why? Because they create jobs. We know they create jobs.

In Washington State alone, one out of every three jobs is connected to trade—one out of every three jobs. South Korea is Washington's fourth-largest trading partner. It's important for the people of Washington State to have this partnership with Korea, with Colombia, and with Panama. Right now, we are falling behind. The European Union, as I think was mentioned earlier, signed their agreement and it became final on July 1 of this year. Since July 1, the European Union has increased their exports to Korea by 17 percent. We are losing market share. We are losing jobs. We must act now.

The estimated jobs that we are losing is almost 350,000 jobs as we sit here and wait. Ninety-five percent of our market is outside of the United States. Ninety-five percent of our market is outside the United States. We want to sell American. Sell American; that's our goal. Yeah, we want to buy American here in the United States. We all want to do that, but we want to sell American.

We can create 280,000 jobs by passing these agreements, and I think this is a time when Members of this Congress, both sides of the aisle, and including those divisions within the parties, need to come together. If you want to create jobs and you want to be a leader in this global economy, if you want to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, the time is now. It's time to come together and pass these agreements by a wide bipartisan majority, show the American people that we are here to lead, show the rest of the world that we are here to lead. And we are here to compete because America has the best products, the best workers, and the best imagination in the world.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Washington making the point that Korea is such an important growing market in the Asia Pacific region. If America hopes to continue economic growth and to have the strongest economy in the world, we must engage in that region of the world, and the free trade agreement working group that Mr. REICHERT heads here in the House is critical to that.

I would now like to introduce the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. CHARLES BOUSTANY, a valuable member of the Ways and Means Committee, who is so strong on trade, and comes from a State that understands trade means jobs, and I yield to Dr. BOUSTANY.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank the chairman for leading this effort tonight, and all of your leadership on trade issues as we go forward.

Expanding export markets for American farmers, manufacturers, and service providers is essential if we're going to have a strong American economy with private sector job creation. The United States has not acted aggressively enough to open markets over the past 3 years under the Obama administration. And now we're falling behind as other nations gain market share.

America has had a strong comparative advantage in agriculture production historically. In fact, in my home State of Louisiana, the number one export is agricultural commodities. Louisiana ranks fourth among the 50 States in exports. Over 500,000 jobs in my small State, a small State with a little over 4 million people, 500,000 jobs in Louisiana are supported directly by trade. Our rural communities in my State are supported by the strength of agricultural production and access to open markets. The local dentist's office, the local school, the small gas stations, all these things depend on the strength of agricultural production, not only in Louisiana but across our country. We need open markets for agricultural products if we're going to sustain these rural communities and economic development.

The trade promotion agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea amount to over \$13 billion annually in new market access. The failure to implement these agreements has caused significant loss of market share. Louisiana, for instance, is the third-largest rice producer in the Nation. Louisiana and U.S. rice exporters face prohibitive tariffs currently in Colombia and Panama. These agreements would phase out these tariffs, creating huge opportunities for Louisiana farmers and millers. Over one-third of Louisiana exports to South Korea would see immediate duty relief and elimination, a significant advantage for Louisiana businesses.

The administration's failure to send these agreements over the past 3 years has had significant adverse consequences. In fact, on January 1, 2009, Colombia's trade agreement with Argentina went into effect, giving Argentina's farmers a competitive advantage over U.S. farmers. In fact, America's market share in the Colombian market for corn, wheat, and soybeans plunged from 71 percent in 2008 down to 27 percent through the first 10 months of 2010, a 44 percent drop in market share, precipitously, that was nearly matched by Argentina's gain. And that's just one example of the consequences of the failure to act on this—lost market share and job loss. We must immediately implement these agreements to promptly avoid further loss.

Mr. Speaker, American competitiveness, American credibility, and American leverage with our economic competitors is at stake. Passing these

agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea is only a start. America needs to move beyond that. We need a well thought out trade strategy that will allow American farmers, businesses, and workers to compete and prosper. An American trade strategy is a critical instrument of American foreign policy because our economic strength is the foundation of both our soft power and our hard power. An American trade strategy is essential for American leadership in the 21st century.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Louisiana making the key point of how America is falling behind and how it's hurting our local economies, our local ranchers, our local service technologies, and our local ports as well.

I would like to yield to a gentleman from California, the former chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, who comes from a State and a district that is rich in the institutions of ranching and technology companies that export successfully around the world. I would like to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. I thank the gentleman from Texas very much, and I want to thank the gentleman for the tremendous leadership that you've given us in the area of trade, trade which is so crucially important to our Nation, to our ability to create jobs, to our economic well-being here in our Nation.

As Chairman BRADY mentioned, I am very blessed to represent one of the richest agricultural areas in the world, an area in the northern Sacramento valley of California just north of Sacramento. In our area, we are the second-largest rice producing district in the Nation. We're also one of the top producers of specialty crops: peaches, walnuts, almonds, dried plums, and prunes are some of our major commodities.

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And the fact is that we cannot, both in California and in our Nation, nearly consume the amount of products that we grow. We are dependent on being able to export. But our challenge—and the example I'm giving with my district is really true in every area across our Nation; it's true in manufacturing and it's true in everything we do—is that as one of the top trading nations in the world historically, the United States, we are dependent on being able to trade. Ninety-five percent of the world's markets lie outside of the United States.

Now, what are the challenges that we have, and why are these trade agreements, these three trade agreements with Panama, Colombia and South Korea, so very important to not only my area of California but to the entire Nation? The reason is that we have challenges in getting into other countries' markets. We have very little, very low barriers coming into our markets.

Other countries can trade with us almost barrier-free, but that is not the case with our products going to other countries. Other countries—virtually all of them—are very protective. They have very high tariffs. So therefore what is taking place when we sit down with these nations and bargain and come up with these trade agreements is an opportunity of lowering their barriers so that the district in my area where we can be able to export to them rice, peaches, walnuts, almonds, dairy products, and, again, our manufacturing goods, without these high barriers and be able to get access to those markets. So it's very important that we do this.

What happens when we don't move forward? Well, we can see it. I was in Panama just this last year. Panama now is doubling the size of the Panama Canal. They're going to need construction equipment. Now, where are they going to purchase this construction equipment? Well, they could be purchasing it from the United States. But guess what? Canada was successful in negotiating a trade agreement with Panama before we've had ours signed. Therefore, they have lower rates, lower barriers on getting their equipment into Panama. So Panama there has had a big advantage of buying from Canada, sales that would have come from the United States.

We can use these same examples with Colombia, the same example with South Korea who has negotiated with the EU, a major trading competitor with us. Therefore, we lose out in jobs, and we lose out in this market share. It is really a lose/lose for the United States.

I want to commend the President. We wish he would have sent these three agreements to us sooner. I'm grateful that he's sending them to us now. It's very important that we pass it. What we have seen is that the nonpartisan U.S. International Trade Commission has estimated that by signing these three trade agreements we can increase 250,000 new jobs to the United States—250,000 new jobs. That's without any stimulus, without any taxpayer money going into it. It is jobs for people who are unemployed today that can be employed, and it will increase at least \$13 billion in trade.

So I want to urge our Congress, I want to urge the House and I want to urge the Senate to vote for these, pass it, let's get going on these trades. Again, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for your leadership.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Well, Chairman HERGER, thank you for your leadership in trade throughout the years. I know especially in California, but for all the country, trade means jobs. These new customers mean jobs. The longer we delay, the more other countries step in front of us and take our customers and, unfortunately, take our jobs. So thank you for your leadership.

One of the bright new members of the Ways and Means Committee is a gen-

tleman from Nebraska. He comes from a State that understands agriculture. He understands you can't survive just by selling to America. There are so many customers around the world that need to buy American products in agriculture that it's key to survival and it's key to job creation.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to be here, and certainly I appreciate my colleague from California talking about agriculture. And it certainly speaks to the diversity of American agriculture when he listed so many products, and I don't think a single one of those that you listed is actually grown in Nebraska, and obviously we produce a lot of agriculture products in Nebraska, and we know what it's like to even produce more than we consume in our State alone. California might be slightly different, but we know that we've got efficient production all across America.

So I want to take just a moment to discuss the impact and benefits of trade agreements to Nebraska and certainly the national economy. As our economy continues to struggle, we should obviously be exploring every avenue to create businesses and create new jobs. Markets around the world present tremendous opportunity because of their size, scope, and rate of growth. And we've heard a lot of numbers tossed around this evening, but we know that beyond the U.S. lies 73 percent of the world's purchasing power, 87 percent of its economic growth, and 95 percent of the world's consumers.

While the national economic impact of trade is very important, the increased marketing opportunity for Nebraska is obviously tremendous as well. For Nebraska, this means the three trade agreements will increase exports by more than \$123 million per year. That's every year. Specifically for agriculture, the agreements with Panama, Colombia, and South Korea would lead to gains for Nebraska's major agriculture commodities, including beef, pork, soybeans and corn.

New markets create opportunities for farmers and ranchers along with the food processors, agri-businesses, transportation workers, and all the sales and related professionals who support the agriculture sector.

I want to make sure Nebraska products and producers make the most of opportunities provided by international sales and to increase exports. There's been enough delay. We certainly know that. And our market share in Colombia has already declined because of inaction. The debate is no longer simply about generating potential export gains, but also how to prevent the loss of existing export markets.

Thank you again. I appreciate this opportunity.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Nebraska talking

about the lost opportunities of delayed trade and the job opportunities of passing these three agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama, all of whom are dynamic economies we ought to be competing in.

I'm glad at this moment to yield to a gentleman from Illinois, a State that understands the importance of competing and winning around the world and that does so successfully.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

Mr. DOLD. I want to thank the chairman for his leadership in trade, and certainly this is an important topic. Just last month, we were actually here in this Chamber when the President came down to talk about jobs and the economy. And there's no doubt it is the number one issue that faces our country today regardless of what side of the aisle you sit on.

The President got up and talked about his jobs package; and as opposed to saying, no, we don't want the jobs package, what I said and what a number of colleagues that I know have talked about is what are the areas that we agree upon. And let's focus on those and try to pass those because the American public is demanding that of us.

Certainly at the top of that list are the free-trade agreements. And when we talk about the free-trade agreements, it's trade promotion where we're actually setting the ground rules with foreign countries, where the United States can actually compete on a level playing field. And if we can complete on a level playing field, the American worker can win.

In the 10th Congressional District of Illinois, we've got 650 manufacturers that represent over 80,000 jobs. Of those 80,000 jobs, over 50,000 of those jobs rely upon exports. You've heard the statistics from some of my colleagues here today talking about 73 percent of the world's purchasing power is outside of the United States, and 95 percent of all consumers are outside of the United States.

Just this last week, I had a manufacturers' roundtable where part of the topic of discussion was demand. Well, if we want to increase demand, I would certainly argue that we need to be able to have access to markets outside of the United States. Just South Korea alone would add \$10 billion on to our GDP. For each additional billion dollars of exports, we create 6,250 jobs in America. That is a jobs plan. We can create additional jobs.

In Illinois, we've lost 750,000 manufacturing jobs over the last decade; and, frankly, we need to turn that tide around. We know in order to be competitive in the United States, the world is not going to sit back and wait for us. The EU has signed its free-trade agreement with South Korea, with Colombia and with Canada, and you've heard from others that the world is not going to wait. We're losing market share as we speak each and every day that we

don't act. We must move forward. It represents a significant amount to our GDP. And we all know that if we don't act now, we're going to lose jobs. It must be putting jobs first and foremost that's going to allow us to move forward for our country.

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So I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up and embrace what the President has given to us. And I certainly appreciate the President sending us the free trade agreements. We told him we would act quickly. He sent them to us today, and today we're talking about them on the floor. We're going to act, and act swiftly, for the American people and for jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you so much for your leadership on this very important issue. It's about jobs and the economy and putting American workers back to work.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Illinois, who comes from a State that understands trade means jobs. And I appreciate his leadership and effort in this area.

Minnesota is also a State that is growing and recovering from this economy because it knows how to sell American throughout the world, especially in medical technology and a number of other key sectors.

I'm glad to yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a key member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I also thank you for your leadership on the Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt with our economy struggling Washington should be doing everything it can to give our job creators the economic certainty that they need and they lack right now, including meaningful tax reform and alleviating government regulations. But the future of growth right now doesn't only lie in a more efficient bureaucracy or lower taxes, it also lies in giving greater export opportunities to emerging markets that are hungry—hungry for American products and our ideas.

The simple truth is that increased trade, new sales and new customers are a proven way to create jobs. These three pending free trade agreements with Panama, South Korea, and Colombia will level the playing field for American businesses, aid in our economic recovery, and allow the United States to compete and win. And with so much concern about skyrocketing deficits, increased free trade is a no-cost way to help the private sector create jobs.

In my home State of Minnesota, 60,000 jobs are dependent on global trade. Now surprisingly, it's not just our fertile soil in the ag community or the iron ore deposits up north that are creating most of these jobs. Ironically, over 90 percent of Minnesota's trade-

supported jobs come from the manufacturing sector. That's a true testament to the quality of Minnesota-made products and the workers who produce them.

Now, by passing these three free trade agreements, we will reduce the barriers in three countries, allowing 60,000 Minnesotans—and now others—the opportunity to find new sales and new customers for their products, giving the companies who employ them the opportunity to expand and start hiring again.

Now, this is about doubling exports, as the President has stated is his goal. Our Governor just led a trade delegation, actually, to South Korea with 24 different businesses. And in Minnesota, it's not just about agriculture. As the chairman just mentioned a second ago, I come from a State that has 400 medical device companies. It's these high-valued manufacturing opportunities that are huge opportunities for free trade and increased sales and customers.

So Mr. Speaker, today is a good day. The White House has formally submitted these trade agreements now. The Ways and Means Committee is going to act swiftly. The House will act swiftly. Over the past couple of months, there's no doubt that Europe has gained an upper hand by passing their own agreements with Panama, South Korea, Colombia and other countries, and in doing so, we've been leapfrogged. And now this is our opportunity to get back on a solid footing. Every day of inaction that has gone by has been a day where we're falling behind and we're losing our competitive edge and putting American jobs at risk.

So Mr. Speaker, I am excited to work in a bipartisan fashion to see this come together in the coming weeks ahead and give our manufacturers a boost, give our exporters a boost, and get our economy back on track.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Minnesota quickly leaping into this issue, recognizing the jobs potential, and his hard work in moving these trade agreements forward.

We have another speaker from Illinois, a key trade State. JUDY BIGGERT, a Congresswoman from Illinois, has long been a leader in trade, helping shepherd through Congress some of the key trade pacts in the past that have turned trade deficits into trade surpluses for America. She continues to be a leader who understands if we tear down these barriers for American companies, American jobs are produced.

I am proud to yield to the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank you so much for hosting this Special Order and all the work that you have done.

Given the extraordinary economic challenges that we face, I can't think of a better or more appropriate topic for Congress to be addressing here

today than trade. Let's face it, the pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea should have been enacted long ago. And only today, after years of delay, has the White House finally transmitted the agreement to Congress for ratification. As a result, we have been forced to wait while sales and jobs are lost to other countries that do not face the same trade barriers that U.S. exporters face. On many products, tariffs would have come down immediately upon enactment of these FTAs, giving a massive boost to our economy at a time when we need it more than ever.

In my home State of Illinois, I have visited with businesses like Hendrickson, Caterpillar, and Navistar, all major players holding their breath, ready to export millions of dollars of U.S.-made goods to new markets opened by these agreements. Right now in Illinois, a company like Caterpillar has to pay a \$200,000 tariff for just one heavy-duty earth mover going into Colombia, while Colombian exports come into the U.S. nearly duty free. That is \$200,000 that could instead stay in America with the free trade agreement and supply jobs in my district and nationwide. All told, these FTAs would support an estimated quarter-million American jobs and increase exports by \$13 million.

Perhaps most importantly, these aren't temporary or low-wage jobs that will disappear when taxpayer-funded stimuluses run dry. In fact, these exported-related jobs pay an average of 15 to 17 percent more than other comparable jobs and don't cost taxpayers a dime. And the benefits aren't limited to manufacturing. U.S. exports in services and agricultural goods stand to increase by billions of dollars.

Passing these agreements is one of the most common-sense, low-cost and economically sound things that Congress, in the President's own words, "could do right now" to boost job growth. And yet only today, after years on the President's desk, has the administration finally sent them to Congress for approval.

Fortunately, the end is in sight. With the agreements now in motion, the House and Senate will at long last have an opportunity in the coming days to pass all three pending agreements. I urge my colleagues to support them.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentlelady from Illinois, both for her long leadership role in trade and her remarks tonight.

San Antonio and south Texas, these communities understand a strong economy depends on strong trade. They are fortunate to have a freshman lawmaker who, in arriving in Congress, quickly realized—in fact, before he came to Congress—the need to get out and have a level playing field to compete and win for American companies and ranchers and agricultural interests throughout this country.

I'm glad and proud to yield to my Texas colleague from San Antonio (Mr. CANSECO).

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to, first of all, thank Chairman KEVIN BRADY for his leadership on trade, and for organizing this very important Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, right now the number one concern of the American people is job creation. Over the past 2½ years, the Obama administration's solution for job creation has been nothing more than more spending, more borrowing, more taxing, and it simply has not worked. Instead of job creation, all that the American people have gotten is more debt.

Since the day he was sworn into office, President Obama has been sitting on a no-cost jobs solution in the form of our pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Together, these three agreements have the potential to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs by opening up the markets of our trading partners to U.S. exports, which would drive job creation and economic growth here at home.

Several of my colleagues have already spoken of the importance of these agreements, so I will discuss the importance of these agreements to my home State of Texas.

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While the Texas economy is very diverse, an important pillar is agriculture. In the 23rd District of Texas that I have the privilege of representing, the beef industry is a very important part of the economy, as is cotton.

All of these three pending trade agreements represent huge opportunities for Texas agricultural producers. For example, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, the Colombia agreement will eliminate the current 80 percent duty imposed on prime and choice cuts of beef, with all beef tariffs eliminated after 10 years. Cotton, another important agricultural export from Texas, will see Colombian tariffs on cotton imports completely eliminated once the agreement is passed.

In the case of Panama, U.S. beef exports that currently face tariffs of 10 to 30 percent will be immediately lifted for prime and choice cuts of beef, with the rest eliminated within 15 years.

The Korean agreement has the opportunity to be a huge windfall for agricultural exports. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that the Korean agreement will increase annual exports to Korea by a minimum of \$1.9 billion upon full implementation. For U.S. beef exports, Korean tariffs will be completely phased out in 15 years. Cotton will see its current duty-free status become permanent, guaranteeing U.S. cotton producers will compete in Korea on a level playing field with other cotton-producing nations.

There is no doubt that all three pending free trade agreements are good for agricultural producers in Texas and in the United States. These agreements

are also good for the United States' service industries.

I am proud to say that I serve on the House Financial Services Committee. Currently, U.S. financial services providers face challenges to doing business in all three nations with which we have pending free trade agreements. The services industry in each nation is growing, and with passage of this agreement, American financial services firms will have better access and better ability to compete in a vibrant and growing market.

These agreements are also important to the United States' standing in the world. In particular, the Colombia agreement should be passed so that Colombia can serve as a counterweight to Hugo Chavez's Venezuela.

Despite all the benefits, at the end of the day, these agreements are about creating jobs here in the United States. Every day that we fail to pass these agreements, we fail to create jobs and economic activity that would exist had we already passed them.

At a time when we're seeing unemployment at its worst since the Great Depression, I am happy that President Obama finally decided to submit them for consideration, and I look forward to all three agreements receiving swift consideration in Congress and quickly becoming law shortly thereafter.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Congressman CANSECO, thank you for your leadership on this important jobs and trade issue.

Our next speaker is laser focused on jobs in Arkansas. He's made a big impact coming in as a freshman lawmaker, understands the need to find new customers.

I am proud to yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN).

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

"If America sits on the sidelines while other nations sign trade deals, we will lose the opportunity to create jobs on our shores." That was President Obama, President Obama in January of 2010, recognizing the importance of trade agreements to creating jobs in the United States.

Today, the President finally submitted to Congress, over a year and a half later, he finally submitted to Congress three critical trade agreements for our approval. Because of what these trade agreements mean for job creators, this is welcome news. But the fact that these three trade agreements, one of which was signed nearly a half decade ago, have been stalled for so long cannot go unnoticed.

Korea, the Korean trade agreement was signed on June 30, 2007. But that South Korean agreement is not the only one. The one with Panama was signed in June of 2007, and the one with Colombia, November of 2006.

President Obama even stated on July 8 of 2011 and during his August tour through the Midwest that all three of the trade agreements would be law by now if it weren't just for that obstructionist Congress. He said that the deals

are something “Congress could do right now.” Well, that’s not true. It wasn’t true then. We couldn’t pass the agreements because they were still on his desk waiting to be sent to Congress. Well, we’re glad they’re here now, and we will join the President in moving quickly on these agreements.

While we have waited on President Obama to act on these long-pending, job-creating export agreements, our foreign competitors—Europe and Canada, in particular—are rapidly increasing their market share and cultivating relationships with trading partners in those countries while American businesses sit on the sidelines.

Make no mistake: More American exports mean more American jobs.

In my home State of Arkansas and in the Second Congressional District, these trade agreements will be very helpful for job creation. Arkansas unemployment is above 8 percent, and we need pro-job creation policies in Washington to stop that from going even higher. We need pro-American export policies to sell more of our products overseas so that Arkansans get the jobs and our manufacturers and farmers get the business.

The three pending export agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea will increase U.S. exports and will create over 250,000 new jobs. Right now, more than 320,000 Arkansas jobs depend on exports, and these agreements will only increase that number. Full implementation of the South Korea trade agreement alone could generate more than 2,500 new jobs in Arkansas.

Manufacturing exports are the strongest part of Arkansas’ economy. Exports directly support 14 percent of Arkansas’ manufacturing jobs, and 66,000 total jobs in all sectors of the economy are supported by manufactured goods exports.

Since 2003, Arkansas manufacturing exports rose twice as fast as the State’s overall economy. Seventy-seven percent of Arkansas exporters are small businesses. And, in fact, Arkansas exported over \$2 billion of manufactured goods to free trade partners in 2010. That’s 45 percent of Arkansas’ total. That number will only continue to grow with the approval of these agreements.

These agreements are critical not only to the country at large, but to Arkansas in particular. With 95 percent of the world’s consumers outside the United States, we now need to give American businesses the opportunity to build stronger trade ties with countries seeking our goods and services, the best goods and services in the world.

Now that the President has finally sent the three pending export agreements to Congress, we can pass them and help American companies compete and create jobs.

I am confident that Congress will act quickly to approve these important bills.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Arkansas laying out just the economic impact that these agreements have on the Arkansas communities, on ranchers, on businesses, small businesses, and on the economy as a whole.

Our next speaker is from Pennsylvania. He understands the importance of trade to his State. I’m pleased to welcome the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank my good friend from Texas for hosting this and for yielding.

I’m very proud to be here tonight, a subcommittee chairman of the Agriculture Committee, to speak to the tremendous benefits that these three free trade agreements yield for all of agriculture across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, today America’s farmers and ranchers are competing in a global market in face of stiff protectionism while their foreign competitors are gaining preferential treatment and access at the American people’s expense.

It’s been a long time coming. While the delay was unacceptably long and likely has cost jobs, I’m pleased the Obama administration has finally done its part and sent Congress these important trade agreements, free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

□ 2010

Many agricultural products have encountered dramatic price fluctuations in recent years, particularly dairy, as a result of depressed exports. These trade agreements will expand U.S. exports, create jobs, and bring much-needed income to communities across rural America.

These exports are increasingly important to Pennsylvania’s agricultural and statewide economy. Expanding these markets for our farmers, ranchers, and small businesses across the country is a critical component of future economic growth. Overall, every sector of Pennsylvania’s agriculture stands to benefit from each trade agreement.

Pennsylvania will benefit under the U.S.-Korea free trade agreement. The U.S.-Korea free trade agreement will benefit the Pennsylvania economy and create new jobs by immediately opening new access for Pennsylvania goods and services in Korea’s \$1 trillion economy and by establishing a level playing field in Korea for Pennsylvania workers and businesses to compete.

One-half of chemical products and many other manufactured goods produced in Pennsylvania will enter Korea duty-free immediately. Tariffs on the remaining chemical products will be eliminated over the next few years. Korean duties on major Pennsylvania agricultural products, such as grape juice, wine, and many dairy products, will be eliminated immediately. Mushrooms will become duty-free within 5 years. Simplified and expedited cus-

toms procedures will enable Pennsylvania businesses to reach Korean customers more quickly and with less red-tape.

Full implementation of the Korea trade agreement could generate nearly 280,000 new jobs, including 9,963 in Pennsylvania alone.

Pennsylvania will benefit under the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Under the Colombia Free Trade Agreement, more than half of U.S. agricultural exports to Colombia will become duty-free immediately, and the remaining eliminated within 15 years. Colombia will eliminate its price band system which affects key U.S. exports, including corn, wheat, dairy, pork, and poultry. Tariffs of \$202 million in U.S. processed food product exports, which are currently as high as 20 percent, will be immediately eliminated. Colombia is actively pursuing and implementing free trade agreements with a number of other trading partners. With every day that we don’t act on this agreement, foreign competitors take market share from American farmers and ranchers.

Pennsylvania will benefit under the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement. Panama is one of the fastest expanding economies in Latin America, with 7.5 percent growth in 2010. Panama is already an important market for America’s farmers and ranchers. In 2010, the United States exported more than \$450 million of agricultural products to Panama. More than half of U.S. agricultural exports to Panama will become duty-free immediately. Remaining tariffs will be removed over 15 years. Panama’s tariffs on poultry range from 5 percent to 260 percent. Some of these will immediately drop to zero, and others will be phased out within 15 years.

I am so pleased that we’re moving ahead with what will be great for agriculture and great for jobs in this country with these three free trade agreements. Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for hosting this tonight.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania again for his leadership on this bipartisan jobs issue. Again, the focus on creating jobs in communities in Pennsylvania by finding new customers is key to the growth of our economy and America’s wealth.

TOM REED is a new member of the Ways and Means Committee who has quickly established himself as one of our brightest stars on trade. He understands it means jobs to New York, and he knows that it means jobs to America as well. Earlier this year, he helped lead a letter from our freshman Republicans to the White House insisting the President submit these three agreements so we have a chance to compete and win around the world in these growing new markets.

I am proud to yield to a friend and a fellow member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. REED of New York.

Mr. REED. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I rise today, even though feeling a little bit under the weather with an obvious cold, to show my support for these free trade agreements, because we have worked hard from day one in this Congress to be a voice for what I believe to be true free and fair trade agreements that put us and America on an even playing field with other countries around the world.

South Korea, Colombia, and Panama represent 250,000 jobs. It can't be any simpler than that. I listened to the President come up and present his jobs speech to us as we sat in this Chamber, and I heard my colleagues talk about the length of delay it took to get these agreements up to this House. But I'm not going to look to the past. I'm going to look to the future. And I'm going to look at the areas where we can find common ground to advance the cause of the great American economic recovery that could start and will start with the passage of these free trade agreements.

I applaud the President for sending these agreements up here today. I'm very confident that after a thorough and loud debate on these issues, they will be passed, and we will move forward to a brighter day of an additional 250,000 jobs in America and \$13 billion worth of enhanced economic activity for the American market. Back in the 29th Congressional District that I am proud to represent, that is real money, those are real jobs, and what we're going to talk about are improvements in our agricultural industry, be it our grape growers, be it our wine producers, be it our apple growers, be it our dairy industry.

But we're also proud in the 29th Congressional District to represent some of the highest tech and manufacturing operations in the entire world. A little company in the city that I come from, Corning, Incorporated, in Corning, New York, has had a longstanding business relationship in South Korea, producing LCD glass and other high-tech materials and manufacturing components.

To me, these free trade agreements are fair agreements and they lead to job creation. That's what we were sent here to Congress to do, is to put America in a better economic condition so that generations of tomorrow will have the prosperity to call this great Nation home for many generations to come.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Again, I appreciate the gentleman from New York for his leadership on this key jobs issue.

With so many Americans out of work, the President was standing in this Chamber not too many days ago urging Republicans and Democrats to come together to create new jobs. Can you imagine if there was an issue that the White House and Congress both agreed on, that Republicans and Democrats across the spectrum supported, a bill that created jobs not by government spending but by allowing the free market to do its work, to granting eco-

nomie freedom to Americans to buy and sell and compete in key markets throughout the world?

Well, today we have that issue. It is the three pending sales agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama. As we have said tonight, they represent almost \$13 billion of new sales for American companies, because we know we have to seek and compete and win around the world for these new customers. We know, too, that these agreements have been delayed far too long. Colombia is an old and trusted friend who's made remarkable progress in the economy, in labor rights, in human rights, in environmental issues. Today we're on the cusp finally of passing a free trade agreement that recognizes our security relationship and our economic relationship. Today we have that opportunity.

I thank the President for sending these agreements to us. As late as they were, the fact of the matter is he has made each of them better, has helped increase and improve bipartisan support for all three, but each day we delay, we lose jobs in America. Each day we delay, Canada and Europe and China and others move ahead of us, take our customers and our jobs. It's time for the delays to end. It's time for Republicans and Democrats to come together and pass these three trade agreements for America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S 2012 BUDGET REQUEST ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-62)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to my constitutional authority and as contemplated by section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's 2012 Budget Request Act. This transmittal does not represent an endorsement of the contents of the D.C. government's requests.

The proposed 2012 Budget Request Act reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. For 2012, the District estimates total revenues and expenditures of \$10.9 billion.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 3, 2011.

□ 2020

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUCSHON). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Congressional Black Caucus is pleased, and we thank the Democratic leadership for allowing us, once again, to come to the floor for the Democratic hour.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. First of all, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on the subject under discussion this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. At this time, I am joined by two of my colleagues. I would like to yield to the gentlelady from Ohio, who, for 2 years religiously, had the responsibility in the last Congress to lead us in these Special Orders—with a lot of conviction and great information to share with the American people.

Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative CHRISTENSEN for anchoring today's timely CBC Special Order on unemployment in the African American community and on job creation.

It is no secret that the unemployment rate for African Americans is almost twice that of the national unemployment rate. Studies show that 16.7 percent of all African Americans are unemployed. It's probably closer to 20 percent when you take into consideration those who have given up looking for jobs or who are severely underemployed. In some cities, it is nearly three times the national unemployment rate.

Mr. Speaker, the people I represent are not talking about budget cuts, and they're not talking about continuing resolutions. The people in my community are talking about being laid off, and they're talking about losing their homes while they're still trying to provide food for their families. We are in a crisis that will undoubtedly affect our children and our grandchildren as 11 percent of all American children have at least one parent who is unemployed.

What does that mean for them?

It means fewer opportunities, and it means fewer meals.

As a Nation, we have always prided ourselves on defining "success" as providing a better future for our children. That's why my colleagues and I are speaking out today. That's why it is absolutely essential that we begin to make changes that will help our people get back on their feet. We must do something to create jobs, and we must do it now. I hosted a telephone town hall on the economy a few weeks ago.