

PETITION TO CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP TO REJECT KORUS FTA

TO: Representative Kevin Brady, Chair, & Representative Jim McDermott, ranking member, Subcommittee on Trade, Ways & Means Committee, U.S. House of Representatives

We the undersigned UAW members, retirees and supporters oppose the U.S.- Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) recently reintroduced by President Obama. Even with its revisions of Bush's 2007 version, this NAFTA-style agreement:

- 1) Will result in a net loss of 159,000 jobs in the seven years following its passage;¹
- 2) "Explicitly forbids reference to the International Labor Organization's conventions that establish internationally recognized core labor standards" while only slightly adjusting market access provisions;²
- 3) Includes "extraordinary investor rights that promote offshoring;"³
- 4) Will encourage South Korean manufacturers to replace permanent workers with part-timers and temps, which already make up 2/3rds of all autoworkers;⁴
- 5) Allows global corporations to sue the South Korean and U.S. governments in trade tribunals over any environmental, labor and other laws that interfere with their profits.⁵

Although UAW leaders endorsed this agreement, we stand with Thea Lee, AFL-CIO Policy Director, who said, "this is the wrong deal at the wrong time," and with Leo Gerard of the United Steelworkers who said it is "...far short of the proposals the USW identified as the minimum approach necessary to secure the union's support."

We urge you to defeat the KORUS FTA in its present form.

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¹ Economic Policy Institute

² Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch

³ Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch

⁴ Korean Metal Workers Union. *We support the Korean trade unionists who spoke against KORUS FTA in January 2011, on a recent West Coast tour.*

⁵ Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch

Send completed petitions ASAP to: Rep. K. Brady & J. McDermott, Subcommittee on Trade, Ways & Means Committee, 1102 Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington DC 20515 or Fax: 202-225-5680 & copy to D. Feeley, 1407 Morrell, Detroit, MI 48209