

I voted Yes on H.R. 3080, the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act. The bill would implement an agreement establishing a free trade area between the United States and South Korea, which was signed in 2007. The agreement covers all agricultural and industrial sectors, greatly expands market access for U.S. services, and contains strong protections for intellectual property, the labor force and the environment.

U.S. industrial goods currently face an average tariff of 6.2 percent in Korea, costing us over \$1.3 billion a year. However, South Korean exports enter the United States at an average tariff of only 2.8 percent – less than half the rate we pay. This agreement will open new opportunities in the Korean market, helping Upstate exporters gain greater access. The International Trade Commission estimates that U.S. exports to Korea would increase by up to \$10.9 billion as a result of tariff reductions alone in this agreement.

This is about jobs here in America. Passage of the trade agreement with South Korea opens up a new market for goods, services, agricultural products from Upstate. More demand for our products means more jobs for us right here, because it's more business for our farms and companies in places like Utica, Auburn, Cortland, Norwich, and Little Falls – just to name a few. In the 24th Congressional District, there are almost 20,000 jobs directly supported by foreign trade; and we export over \$5 billion worth of goods each year.

In agriculture alone, New York stands to benefit by nearly \$30 million a year in additional agricultural exports if the Colombia, South Korea and Panama agreements are approved.

These agreements will boost our fruit, vegetable, wine, dairy, other farm exports to these three countries.

It's also important that we assist workers that may be adversely impacted by a trade agreement. That is why I am also voting to provide Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits to workers affected by foreign trade. TAA provides job training and extended unemployment benefits, among others, to qualified individuals.

To keep and create jobs in Upstate, we need to grow crops, innovate new services, and manufacture goods in Upstate. The United States-South Korea trade agreement helps us do just that by opening a new market abroad for our people to compete in.