

I voted Yes on H.R. 3078, the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act. This bill would implement an agreement establishing a free trade area between the United States and Colombia, which was originally signed in 2006. 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.

Our exports to Colombia face an stiff tariff of 12.5 percent, while our tariff on Colombian exports to the United States is just three percent. The vast majority of Colombia's exports to the United States – about 90 percent last year – actually received duty-free treatment. This new agreement would transition the U.S.- Colombia trading relationship to a reciprocal commitment and help Upstate exporters gain greater access to the Colombian market, which is the third largest U.S. export market in Latin America. It is estimated that annual U.S. exports to Colombia would increase by \$1.1 billion due to enactment of this legislation.

This is about jobs here in America. Passage of the trade agreement with Colombia 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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-Colombia trade agreement helps us do just that by opening a new market abroad for our people to compete in.