

Knowing your interest in trade, I wanted to share some positive news about the long awaited implementation of our trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. This week the House Ways & Means Committee held a meeting on these pending agreements to move them forward for Congressional consideration this summer. Passing these agreements is a cost-free way to create jobs here at home. According to the non-partisan U.S. International Trade Commission, U.S. exports will increase by at least \$13 billion and, using the President's own estimate, create approximately 250,000 jobs. The free-trade agreement with Korea will expand sales of California-grown fruits, vegetables and other crops. The agreement with Colombia will open up new markets to California farmers and ranchers, from those producing livestock, fiber or oilseeds to vegetables, fruits and grains. California dairy farmers, leaders of the national dairy industry, stand to benefit significantly from the agreement with Panama. Under current conditions, California farmers are forced to pay high tariffs to gain access to the markets in these countries, making it a losing proposition to pursue exporting to these nations. Leveling the playing field will do wonders for the economies of California and America as a whole.

There are significant benefits to implementing our free trade agreements with these nations that will have positive impacts in California. With so many California jobs tied to agricultural sales – and with a high percentage of these sales done through exports, expanding the American presence in foreign markets will reward our state with thousands of new jobs. American farmers, ranchers, businesses, and workers stand to benefit a great deal from these agreements and it has been to our detriment that they have been delayed so long. If American agricultural manufacturers and businesses can't compete globally because of high tariffs or other barriers, it is especially difficult for them to increase in investment and put Americans back to work. In the midst of the longest economic downturn since the Great Depression it is essential that we move forward to open up global markets for American goods. These agreements will do just that. As this process moves forward, I will continue my full-throated support to open up these foreign markets to get America back to work and our economy back on track.

[Share your thoughts](#)