

Lately, positive economic news has come far too infrequently but I want to let you know that Congress today took a major step toward creating jobs in Northern California and across the country. After five years of delay, the House was finally able to act upon and pass the free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea to level the playing field for U.S. goods and services entering those markets. The agreements will substantially reduce tariffs and other trade barriers that have restricted U.S. sales into these countries, boosting U.S. exports by a projected \$13 billion and creating an estimated 250,000 jobs here at home.

The free-trade agreement with Korea will expand sales of California-grown fruits, tree nuts and wine. Likewise, the agreement with Colombia will open up new markets to California farmers and ranchers, including those producing livestock, vegetables, fruits and tree nuts. California dairy farmers, leaders of the national dairy industry, stand to benefit significantly from the agreement with Panama. The House passed all three agreements with bipartisan support and they now await action in the Senate.

I delivered the following speech on the House floor in support these agreements. You can watch a video of the speech [here](#) and read the full text below. Additionally, below, I have included links to more information on how California will benefit from each agreement.

"Madam Speaker, the trade agreements before us represent a major opportunity for American small businesses and workers. By leveling the playing field for U.S. goods and services entering Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, these agreements will provide a significant boost to our economy and create an estimated 250,000 new jobs. They are commonsense, win-win agreements for the American people.

"Here's why. Removing tariffs and other barriers to U.S. exports means that our U.S. products become more competitive in foreign markets, which in turn generates more sales and more business for our farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and service providers. Passing these agreements will mean more jobs, more economic growth, and more opportunities both on and off the farm for the men and women in my northern California congressional district and the rest of our Nation. Perhaps best of all, these trade agreements will provide real, permanent economic stimulus at no cost to the American taxpayers. They represent fundamentally sound economics--getting government-imposed barriers out of the way and letting American business and workers do what they do best.

"As the former ranking Republican on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, I have joined many others in urging support for these agreements. While I believe this week should have come a lot sooner, these are real job bills, and I urge my colleagues to support all three."

California-Specific FTA benefits from the International Trade Administration and the Department of Agriculture:

Colombia

- [International Trade Administration](#)
- [Department of Agriculture](#)

Panama

- [International Trade Administration](#)
- [Department of Agriculture](#)

South Korea

- [International Trade Administration](#)
- [Department of Agriculture](#)

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