

March 31, 2011

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Chairman
Subcommittee on Trade,
Committee on Ways and Means
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC. 20510

Dear Chairman Brady,

Re: Support of US Free Trade Agreement with Korea

On behalf of the California Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to urge Congressional approval of the pending Free Trade Agreement with Korea. Congressional leaders of both parties have indicated their intent to bring this agreement up for a vote in the months ahead, and it is critical to companies, workers, farmers, and ranchers in our state that you support this job creating trade agreement.

The California Chamber of Commerce, established in 1890, is the largest, broad-based business advocate that works at both state and federal levels to influence government actions affecting all California businesses. Our members include more than 15,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, as well as 450 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations. Our members employ one-fourth of the private sector workforce in California. Through its grassroots action program, the California Chamber reaches out to a statewide network of 430,000 small business owners.

The trade agreement with Korea is a big win for the California and U.S. economies. Korea is the seventh-largest U.S. export market in the world (and our fifth-largest market for farm exports). In 2010, U.S. exports to Korea reached \$38.8 billion, with U.S. small and medium-sized companies accounting for a third of this impressive total. By giving U.S. exporters a leg up in one of the world's largest economies, the agreement with Korea will enhance the ability of U.S. companies to compete in the dynamic Asian economy. Korea is California's 5th largest exporting partner. In 2010, California exported goods worth \$8 billion to Korea.

The CalChamber, in keeping with long-standing policy, enthusiastically supports free trade worldwide, expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

California is one of the ten largest economies in the world with a gross state product of approximately \$1.9 trillion. As one of the largest exporting states, with exports to 226 economies around the world, international-related commerce accounts for approximately one-quarter of California's economy.

The California Chamber of Commerce urges your support of this FTA that will continue to keep American and Californian businesses competitive. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Allan Zaremborg

AZ:STS:alb