



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

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**VIA FAX**

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers (USW), **I write to reiterate our union's strong opposition to the Free Trade Agreements with South Korea, Panama and Colombia.** On June 20, 2011 we sent a detailed letter outlining our reasons for opposing all three agreements and in particular, our disappointment with the provisions negotiated for the auto assembly sector in the KORUS.

The **extremely weak domestic content provisions of the KORUS** represent a lost opportunity that will result in lost jobs in the vastly larger auto supply chain. The USW represents approximately 350,000 men and women who work in the auto supply chain whose jobs the Korea FTA puts at risk. Only thirty-five percent (35%) of the content of a vehicle coming from either Korea or the U.S. must be made in either country. **Fully sixty-five percent (65%) – or two-thirds of an auto's content - can be made in any other country, like China, and qualify for duty free treatment under the agreement.**

Americans want the expression "made in the USA" to mean something. The KORUS will not advance that goal, it will accelerate the offshoring and outsourcing of auto parts production, jeopardizing not only the jobs of the Americans that make the products that can be used in the auto supply chain but those of other workers across the country.

**I would also like to reiterate our opposition to the FTA with Colombia.** Since our letter in June, the U.S. negotiated a Labor Action Plan with Colombia. This is a good first step but men and women working to advance the cause of labor and human rights are still at risk daily in Colombia. Despite the signing of the Action Plan, **Colombia has not lived up to its end of the agreement and assassinations and the rate of impunity for them continue unabated.**

Once again, I urge you to vote against the Free Trade Agreements with Korea, Colombia and Panama.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard  
International President

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