

# The Huntsville Times

## **For hardworking people**

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Rep. Bud Cramer's recent vote against the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement (OFTA), an expansion of NAFTA which narrowly passed Congress (221-205) on July 20th, was a vote for the hardworking people of this district.

Since NAFTA, both Alabama and the Huntsville area have lost 40 percent of their manufacturing jobs, and the Florence area has lost nearly half of its manufacturing jobs.

Working people here cannot afford to compete with workers in Oman, a country that has been charged by the State Department with human trafficking and forced labor and with violation of international labor standards. We can be proud of this sort of representation in Congress.

Cramer's vote against OFTA was also a vote to protect America's national security. OFTA contains a provision that would allow companies incorporated in Oman to control ports - including those in Alabama - and haul us before secret tribunals if our action to protect national security interfered with their operations.

Congress may soon vote on another NAFTA-expansion, this time a trade agreement with Peru. We will depend on Cramer to once again stand up for working families in our district and oppose this agreement, which suffers from the same lack of labor provisions seen in OFTA, and contains the same language about ports.

That is particularly worrying because Dubai Ports World controls Peru's ports.

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