July 22, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write today to request a meeting with you to discuss your plan to bring the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to Congress for a vote next year. A meeting will allow us to discuss our specific concerns with you and to identify a way to unify the Democratic Party and all Americans on the issue of trade.

The Korea FTA, as negotiated by President George W. Bush’s administration, is another NAFTA-style FTA that we simply cannot support in its current form. We oppose specific provisions of the agreement in the financial services, investment, and labor chapters, because they benefit multi-national corporations at the expense of small businesses and workers. And we strongly object to the non-tariff barriers to the Korean market that numerous U.S. industries – including the auto, beef, and textile sectors – will continue to face even as their Korean counterparts receive virtually total access to the American market.

At a time when our economy is struggling to recover from the worst downturn since the Great Depression, it is unthinkable to consider moving forward with another job-killing FTA. We recognize, as you do, that done right, trade agreements can create jobs as they increase exports and help our economy recover. But done wrong, trade agreements send those same jobs off-shore, benefitting a narrow class of investors while leaving average Americans worse off. Americans believe that more NAFTA-style agreements will derail, not promote, our economic recovery.

Implementing this pact without major changes to the text will exacerbate the U.S. trade deficit; further erode the U.S. manufacturing base; jeopardize our efforts to guard against another global economic meltdown; and make the U.S. government vulnerable to compensation demands in foreign tribunals raised by Korean companies doing business within our borders. Moreover, it is simply out of touch with what the overwhelming majority of American people want.

We ask for this meeting to discuss with you specific proposals to improve the Korea FTA and the overall U.S. trade model. We must take advantage of this unique and historic
opportunity to unite the Democratic Party and all Americans behind a new trade policy that benefits big and small companies and blue and white collar workers alike.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress

LINDA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress

ROBERT ANDREWS
Member of Congress

MICHAEL ARCURI
Member of Congress

JOE BACA
Member of Congress

TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress

JOHN A. BOCCHIERI
Member of Congress

RICK Bouchier
Member of Congress

ROBERT BRADY
Member of Congress

BRUCE BRALEY
Member of Congress

CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress

RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER CARNEY
Member of Congress

ANDRE CARSON
Member of Congress
PAUL HODGES  
Member of Congress

RUSH HOLT  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson-Lee  
Member of Congress

HENRY "HANK" JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

PAUL KANJORSKI  
Member of Congress

Patrick O. Kennedy  
Member of Congress

CAROLYN KILPATRICK  
Member of Congress

TIM HOLDEN  
Member of Congress

JESSE JACKSON, JR.  
Member of Congress

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

STEVE KAGEN  
Member of Congress

MARCY KAPTUR  
Member of Congress

DALE KILDEE  
Member of Congress

MARY JO KILROY  
Member of Congress
LARRY KISSELL
Member of Congress

DANIEL LIPINSKI
Member of Congress

STEPHEN LYNCH
Member of Congress

BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress

MIKE MCINTYRE
Member of Congress

GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress

DENNIS KUCINICH
Member of Congress

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

DAVID LOEBSACK
Member of Congress

JIM MARSHALL
Member of Congress

JIM MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

BRAD MILLER
Member of Congress

ALAN B. MOLDOVAN
Member of Congress
GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress

PATRICK MURPHY
Member of Congress

JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

JAMES OBERTSTAR
Member of Congress

JOHN OLIVER
Member of Congress

FRANK PALLONE
Member of Congress

BILL PASCRELL
Member of Congress

THOMAS PERRIELLO
Member of Congress

GARY PETERS
Member of Congress

COLLIN PETERSON
Member of Congress

CHELLIE Pingree
Member of Congress

NICK RAHALL
Member of Congress
STEVEN ROTHMAN
Member of Congress

BOBBY RUSH
Member of Congress

JOHN SARBAVES
Member of Congress

MARK SCHIAUER
Member of Congress

JOE SESTAK
Member of Congress

BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress

LOUISE SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

JANICE SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress

CAROL SHEA-PORTE
Member of Congress

HEATH SHULER
Member of Congress

LACHARY SPACE
Member of Congress
JOHN SPRATT
Member of Congress

BART STUPAK
Member of Congress

JOHN F. TIERNEY
Member of Congress

PETER VISCLOSKY
Member of Congress

MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress

LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress

FORTNEY "PETE" STARK
Member of Congress

BETTY SUTTON
Member of Congress

PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

CHARLES WILSON
Member of Congress

DAVID WU
Member of Congress