

Rep. Louise M. Slaughter

Ranking Member, House Committee on Rules
Representing New York's 28th District

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Slaughter Denounces Obama Trade Agreement with Colombia

Says effects of same failed policies of the past won't reverse "by some miracle"

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today released the following statement condemning the Obama administration's agreement to a free-trade deal with Colombia.

In April 2008, as Chair of the powerful House Rules Committee, Slaughter played a critical role in derailing President Bush's attempt to force congressional implementation of the Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Slaughter has also been an outspoken critic of the recently proposed US-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

"Millions of working families have been devastated by the disastrous trade policies of the past. Now, the Obama administration is trotting out the same failed policies as if by some miracle they will have a different effect this time. They won't.

"Worse yet, this deal turns a blind eye to rampant human rights violations and anti-labor practices of Colombia, where merely joining a union or advocating for workers rights can be a death sentence. Contrary to claims of decreasing violence, 51 unionists were murdered just last year. I will continue to oppose this measure that sells short the rights of workers in both Colombia and the United States."

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