

July 12, 2011

The Honorable Phil Roe
U.S. House of Representatives
Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Roe,

I am a member of United Steelworkers Local 12943 and stand in firm opposition to the three pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Korea and Panama. These agreements promise no jobs, but rather will put more jobs at risk.

Along with our families and friends, we live in communities throughout your congressional district. I work at Domtar Paper Mill in Kingsport, TN and understand the need for family-supporting jobs. Based on the results of free trade agreements to date as well as expanded trade with countries like China, we have no reason to believe that these deals will do anything more than threaten even more jobs and negatively impact our communities.

The results of “free trade” deals have failed us repeatedly. In the last decade, we’ve watched six million manufacturing jobs and 55,000 plants disappear. Companies can easily set up operations overseas and export back to the U.S. market. In the 2000s, large companies cut their U.S. workforces by 2.9 million while increasing overseas employment by 2.4 million. Given that far too many Americans are still struggling in an economy that has left millions unemployed or underemployed, all our efforts should be on job creation – not job destroying – efforts.

I urge you to oppose these agreements and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Name

Street

City, State & Zip