

## Trade Action – Round II

Last week's national call-in days were extremely helpful in raising opposition to the three pending free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia and Panama. Thank you to everyone who called your U.S. Representative – especially those of you who shared feedback from the calls.

Lawmakers ultimately pushed off the committee action that was scheduled for last week. However, the agreements continue to be a top priority in Washington. It is time to turn up the heat a little higher. We want Representatives to get a sense of just how many of their constituents are concerned about the negative impact of these agreements.

We are requesting that your local write a letter to your Representative(s) and get as many members as possible to sign on. This is similar to a petition, but much more personal. The goal is to show lawmakers that we are constituents with broad reach throughout their congressional districts and we want them to oppose the agreements. **We need participation from every local!**

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### Action Instructions

- 1 - Write a letter from the leadership and members of your local to your U.S. Representative(s). Please note our union's concern and opposition to these agreements in your letter (see sample on the next page).**
- 2 - Get as many members as possible to sign the letter to reinforce the widespread opposition from constituents.**
- 3 - Mail the letter to your Representative(s). You may also want to fax your letter to ensure it draws attention. Fax numbers are available on most Representatives' websites or by calling their offices.**

Find website links and phone numbers here: [www.house.gov/representatives](http://www.house.gov/representatives)

Mailing Address: Representative [first, last]  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

- 4 - Mail, fax or email a copy to your Rapid Response Coordinator (or, for Pennsylvania, the appropriate Congressional District Coordinator). Knowing what is happening across the country is extremely important. It allows us to better coordinate our legislative efforts and make a greater overall impact.**

**For extra pressure: Hand-deliver the letter and signatures to the local office of your U.S. Representative.**

*Sample Letter*

The Honorable *[first, last]*  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

The *[number]* members of United Steelworkers Local *[number]* 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. We work at *[name of facility/facilities]* in *[city, state]* 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.

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

Sincerely,

*[Have your leadership and membership sign on!]*

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**Please note:**

- **Make sure to include a return address where the Representative can write your local back.**
- **Please personalize your letter as much as possible!**
- **Want more ideas for your letter? Check out the United Steelworkers’ recent letter to the U.S. House of Representatives at <http://bit.ly/jDIWKy>**
- **If you have members who live in multiple congressional districts, we encourage you to reach out to all of the area Representatives. Not sure who the Representatives are from your area? Visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)**
- **If you have questions or need assistance, call your Rapid Response Coordinator or dial the Action Hotline anytime at 1-866-297-3817.**