



Leo W. Gerard
International President

May 12, 2011

VIA FAX

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Market Act of 2011, H.R. 1749.

Dear Representative Slaughter:

On behalf of the United Steelworkers, I thank you for taking the lead in introducing the Reciprocal Market Access Act of 2011, H.R. 1749, joined by 35 cosponsors.

This bill would support our nation's workforce and strengthen the competitiveness of American industries globally, by significantly increasing the Administration's ability to reduce foreign trade barriers. The bill addresses a serious problem in trade negotiations. Currently, tariff and non-tariff barriers are largely separate and self-contained, so that tradeoffs are tariff-for-tariff and non-tariff-for non-tariff. The result is that in any given sector, a tariff can be reduced or eliminated without securing the elimination of the real barriers that deny U.S. manufacturers market access for their exports.

Your bill requires that U.S. trade negotiators eliminate foreign market barriers before reducing U.S. tariffs. Importantly it provides enforcement authority to reinstate the tariff if the foreign government does not honor its commitment to remove its barriers. It is critical that our trade negotiators have the tools provided in your bill so that our industries can compete fairly and thereby help address our ballooning trade-deficit.

We look forward to working with you to secure a level playing field for American workers and U.S manufacturers in future trade negotiations.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard
International President

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