



Reciprocal Market Access Act

Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter



Trade Policy to Create Opportunities for American Companies and American Workers

Industries in the United States face significant non-tariff barriers in key international markets, preventing fair market access for U.S. exports. Despite this reality, the U.S. has entered trade deal after trade deal that reduce or eliminate U.S. tariffs without securing the reduction or elimination of foreign non-tariff trade barriers. This unilateral disarmament gives an advantage to our foreign competitors while denying U.S. manufacturers access to those markets.

The bipartisan **Reciprocal Market Access Act (RMAA)** would require the reduction of foreign market barriers before reducing U.S. tariffs, a move that would level the playing field for American workers and support American manufacturing jobs. **RMAA** would enhance the tools available to our trade negotiators, ensuring that the U.S. is able to achieve real reciprocity in the international marketplace. This legislation, first introduced in 2007, would provide additional leverage for USTR to ensure that trade negotiations fully address the market access problems faced by U.S. producers.

Key Provisions

- Requires the President to certify to Congress that reciprocal market access has been obtained in advance of agreeing to a modification of any existing duty on a product.
- Provides the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center (ITEC), along with the Department of Labor, the authority to require USTR to revoke tariff concessions if a trading partner fails to uphold reciprocal market access commitments. This authority, known as “**snap back**,” could be requested by a manufacturer, a labor union, a trade association or a Member of Congress. Snap back provisions were included in the Korea Free Trade Agreement with respect to motor vehicles.
- Instructs the International Trade Commission (ITC) to conduct an assessment on a prospective trade agreement’s impact on market access opportunities and barriers, both tariff and non-tariff, for U.S. products or services impacted by the proposed trade agreement.

“It’s long past time our main export was something other than good-paying American jobs. Now is the time to finally end the era of giveaway trade. If foreign countries fail to uphold their end of the deal and erect barriers to American goods, we should hold them accountable. Our economic prosperity is directly linked to our manufacturing base. Until we fix our broken trade system, workers, businesses, and our entire economy will continue to struggle.”

Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (NY-25)

The **RMAA** is endorsed by a number of businesses and manufacturers, trade associations, and labor unions, including:

