

Panama, Colombia, & South Korea Free Trade Pink Slip



Joe Crowley Says:
YOU'RE
FIRED!

Will Representative Joseph Crowley's free trade vote cost you your job or make it harder to get one?

On October 12, Joe Crowley voted for the South Korea-US Free Trade Agreement (Korea FTA) and US-Colombian Free Trade Agreement, which will together cost the United States an estimated 214,000 jobs. The Korea trade deal eliminates or reduces import tariffs on Korean-made goods, allowing Korean products to enter the marketplace at cheaper prices than US-made goods, resulting in less sales of US-made products. Corporations employing workers in the US will either lay off workers and decrease production or outsource production to overseas sweatshops where they can pay workers next to nothing and produce products more cheaply. The Korea FTA only requires that 35% be made in Korea to be treated as Korean-made, meaning that the majority of "Korean" goods can actually be manufactured in sweatshops in China and Vietnam and still be imported into the US with little or no tariff. This puts US workers in direct competition for jobs with workers making pennies an hour and working 16 hours a day. This same rule allows US companies to produce only 35% of a product in the US to export it to Korea with low or nonexistent tariffs. If corporations enjoy the same Korean market access advantage whether they produce "US made" goods here in the US or in Mexican sweatshops, they're left with no reason to keep jobs in the US.

The Korea FTA is celebrated by the Wall Street firms that wrecked our economy and left 9.1% of the US unemployed as the "best" trade deal ever. It includes rules that actually PREVENT Congress from fixing this problem by limiting regulation on risky financial products and services, prohibiting the US from limiting the size of financial institutions, imposing firewalls between the sort of financial services one firm may offer, banning toxic derivatives, or controlling destabilizing capital flights and floods.

The Colombia Trade Agreement removes tariffs on imports from a nation where 3,000 union organizers have been assassinated in the last 30 years. The agreement does nothing to fix this problem. This gives corporations the choice between keeping jobs in the US and paying union scale wages or exporting them to a nation where demands for higher wages can be met with bullets. This will help corporations increase profits -- at the cost of human lives in Colombia and the loss of 55,000 jobs in the US.

Crowley also voted for a free trade agreement with Panama that will help corporations and the super-rich hide their money in overseas bank account. The Senate Homeland Security Committee has estimated that closing offshore tax loopholes could save US taxpayers \$1.05 trillion over the next decade. Losing this revenue means less money for vitally needed government programs -- and less government jobs.

Both trade agreements include rules that allow foreign investors to attack our environmental, health, safety, and labor laws in international tribunals outside of the jurisdiction of US courts. These tribunals allow corporations to sue the US for unlimited sums, demanding compensation not only for money they've lost, but also for money they *might* have made in the future. The US has been forced to spend millions of our tax dollars under similar rules in the the North American Free Trade Agreement to defend our laws against attacks by corporate polluters demanding billions in compensation for being denied their "right" to poison our land, air, and water.

Please Write, call, fax, and email Representative Crowley and let him know that you are outraged that he voted for three job-killing free trade agreements while our country faces 9.1% unemployment: Representative Joseph Crowley, 2404 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3965 Fax: 202-225-1909 Webform for email: <https://crowley.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

Occupy Wall Street Trade Justice Working Group/ TradeJustice NY Metro
Phone: (718) 218-4523 Email: ows@tradejustice.net Web: <http://tradejustice.net>