

Green Party Perspective on Korea-US Free Trade Agreement

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The South Korea Free Trade Agreement makes commercial trade supreme over environmental, labor, and consumer standards. This form of secret autocratic governance is corporate-managed trade that puts short term corporate profits as the priority. Trade policies must be open and democratic, and not strip-mine environmental, social, and labor standards.

As a member of the Bergen County Green Party, I reject trade agreements negotiated in secret and unduly influenced by corporate attorneys and representatives. In particular, I oppose the South Korea Free Trade Agreement, as it threatens the constitutional power of Congress and local sovereignty, and effectively limits the participation of citizens in decision making. This trade agreement will create administrative bureaucracies which will be run by corporate interests unaccountable to public input or even legal challenge. As a Green, I demand that the trade agreement be updated to include more specific environmental, worker, health and safety standards in the text, as opposed to "side agreements." Lastly, I reject any agreement that threatens the authority of states and local communities to establish more stringent health, safety, and environmental standards.

I urge Congressman Rothman to reject the South Korea Free Trade Agreement. Reformulate the trade agreement according to Fair Trade with terms set that protect labor, human rights, local business, and the environment (including local agriculture).