

Korea FTA Phone Script – May 2011

Phone Script Guidelines:

When you call, please emphasize:

* (If applicable) I am a **constituent in your district** (OR members of KAFT or your organization live in your district)

* I am with Korean-Americans for Fair Trade and whatever other organizational affiliation

* I ask that Representative _____ vote NO on the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement (and list your main reason(s) from the letter)

You may be asked for your phone number or zip code/ general address.

If this is your first time calling your representative, don't be stressed. The people picking up the phones get umpteen calls a day. They basically need to hear your name, that you are a constituent, why this issue is important to you and what you want the congressperson to do.

Please locate the trade legislative aide's name on the call sheet.

CALLER: Hello, is _____ (Congressperson's trade staffer name) _____ there?
(If your representative's trade legislative aide is not on the call sheet, ask to speak to the trade legislative aide).

The person receiving the call will ask: 'Who are you, and what are you calling about?'

CALLER: My name is _____, I am a voter living in Congressperson _____'s district, and I'm calling on behalf of Korean Americans for Fair Trade,[and from _____your organizational affiliation here]. I am calling to urge Congressperson _____ to vote NO on the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement.

At this point, you may be transferred to the trade legislative aide directly, or if s/he is out of office, asked to leave a voicemail or send an email.

If you are transferred to the trade legislative aide, you should repeat the above basic information. Then -

CALLER: Where does Congressperson _____ stand on the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement?

(If Congressperson is going to vote NO) I'm glad to hear that s/he is also **opposed to the KORUS FTA.**

(If Congressperson is going to vote YES or is undecided)

I hope that the Congressperson ____ **reconsiders their position on the KORUS FTA / votes NO on the trade deal.**

Proceed to list one or two main reasons among the following;

- I oppose the Korean-US FTA because it is a **NAFTA-style trade deal that will not benefit the majority of Americans or Koreans.** The past fifteen years have shown us that NAFTA-type deals have done nothing for working people in our country but only benefited special interests.
- We cannot afford to lose more jobs due to unfair trade deals. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the Korea-US FTA **will increase the annual U.S. trade deficit with Korea by \$13.9 billion** over the next seven years, which would destroy **159,000 net jobs.**
- We cannot afford to lose decent, high-paying manufacturing jobs in our state or in this country. We have already seen that since NAFTA was enacted in 1994, **the U.S. has lost over 4.9 million manufacturing jobs,** or almost one out of three manufacturing jobs. An independent federal body has estimated that more decent manufacturing jobs will be lost under the Korea-US FTA. We cannot afford to lose more decent jobs.
- The FTA was negotiated in 2007 before the global financial crisis hit. It has **outdated clauses that further deregulate finance, banking, and investor activities** just when we need to create a sustainable and just economic system. At a time when Americans are still jobless and hurting from the economic crisis, the last thing we need is more deregulation of Wall Street.
- This trade deal also **encourages the offshoring of jobs,** as its rule-of-origin clause allows 65% of the foreign-made materials to be tariff-free. This means that American companies can outsource production to Mexico and still benefit, and likewise for South Korean firms hiring Chinese and other countries' cheaper labor.
- The Korea trade deal will also endanger the lives of farmers and the food systems of both the US and South Korea. Since the enactment of NAFTA the **United States has lost 300,000 farms** and millions of Mexican farmers have lost their livelihoods. Likewise, the Korean government has estimated that total agricultural production would be cut in half by this trade deal, **leading to unemployment for half of Korea's farmers.** The FTA has also forced Korea to accept GMOs (genetically modified organisms) into their food systems, although these were banned under an early 2000 law.

- This FTA privileges profits over environmental, food safety and labor safeguards established in both countries. I am especially disturbed by its investor-state dispute resolution clause, **which allows corporations in either country to sue local, state and federal governments over public policy safeguards** which the corporation believes are obstacles to profit. In addition, **South Korea had to lower their national emissions standards** to accept the import of Americans cars. Why should Americans or Koreans give up our rights, safety and environmental standards at the expense of a company's bottom line?
- Currently Korean-American and other small businesses in this country continue to be hit hard by the economic crisis across the country. In addition, most of South Korea's manufacturing is also based on small firms producing parts for the large conglomerates. FTA proponents argue that this agreement will help everyone but we know that's not the case –it will mainly benefit the large transnational corporations.

* * * You may share 1 point applicable to your state's economy, politicians, or major issues. *For example, "New York was already hit hard by NAFTA, and lost XXXX high-paying manufacturing jobs. We can't afford to lose more of these jobs.."*

* * * You may want to tailor call to the political party or to the representative themselves. *How did they stand on trade during elections? Did they reverse that position?*

CALLER: Thank you for your time.

Please let KAFT know by e-mail: **KAfairtrade@gmail.com that you made your calls and what the results were. Thank you!