



Textile Workers Deliver Nearly 27,000 Petitions Urging “No” Vote on U.S.-Korea FTA

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Washington D.C. ó Textile workers from over 400 companies delivered nearly 27,000 [petitions](#) to members of Congress over the past three months urging their local representatives to vote “NO” on the U.S.-Korea FTA.

“For textile workers and companies, this is a dangerous agreement which threatens 40,000 textile and related industry jobs,” said Bill Jasper, NCTO Chairman. “Our workers are passionate that no more textile jobs be shipped overseas because of another poorly negotiated trade agreement.”

In asking their members of Congress to oppose, the worker petitions singled out China as the major beneficiary of the Korea FTA and U.S. textile jobs as one of the biggest losers. “Because of weakened Customs rules in this FTA, dramatically reduced Customs enforcement resources and China’s long history of using Korea to illegally transship goods, our workers are saying “NO” to this FTA,” said Cass Johnson, President of NCTO. Johnson noted that U.S. government statistics show U.S. textile workers would be particularly hard hit if the U.S.-Korea FTA agreement passes.

Another flaw in the agreement allows textile firms in Korea to target U.S. textile companies by giving Korean firms more favorable trade terms, particularly on some products sourced by the U.S. military. In a major trade case, a large Korean textile competitor, Kolon Industries, was fined nearly a billion dollars last month for stealing textile fiber trade secrets from DuPont. Under the terms of the Korea FTA, Kolon Industries will get better access into the U.S. market for its products than U.S. textile firms will get into Korea.

Jasper concluded, “The textile industry asked President Obama to fix the flaws that could cost so many textile jobs when the President agreed to renegotiate the Korea FTA last December. Unfortunately, the President refused to put these important fixes on the table. Now, when job creation is in the forefront of the minds of all Americans, these textile worker petitions give their representatives a unique opportunity to stand up for the workers in their districts and vote this agreement down.”

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