



UNITED STATES FEDERATION OF KOREA VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

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R E S O L U T I O N

A resolution urging the United States Congress to support the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA).

WHEREAS the United States and the Republic of Korea share a mutual interest and commitment to peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in the region;

WHEREAS during the Korean War 1950-1953, nearly 40,000 American soldiers gave their lives and over 1 million U.S. troops served and fought bravely to secure freedom and liberty for the Republic of Korea;

WHEREAS the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a Mutual Defense Treaty on October 1, 1953 that laid the foundation for more than 50 years of effective deterrence against any and all provocation;

WHEREAS during the Korean War Cease Fire 1954-2007, over 1200 American soldiers have given their lives and over 3 million U.S. troops have served alongside the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea defending and enforcing the cease fire provisions against incursions and provocations;

WHEREAS 29,000 U.S. troops remain stationed in the Republic of Korea serving and training alongside the servicemen and women of the Republic of Korea armed forces;

WHEREAS in addition to the blood, political and military ties that bind the United States and the Republic of Korea together, the two nations also share a dynamic and comprehensive economic partnership;

WHEREAS the Republic of Korea is the seventh largest trading partner of the United States, the sixth largest market for agricultural goods and the third largest destination for U.S. foreign direct investment in the Asia-Pacific region;

WHEREAS in 2006, bilateral trade between the Republic of Korea and the United States reached nearly \$80 billion;

WHEREAS the KORUS FTA represents the largest and most commercially significant free trade agreement to be signed by the United States in over a decade and since the ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement;

WHEREAS the KORUS FTA will ultimately eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers, create better jobs, enrich consumer choice, boost industry, encourage research and development, and enhance overall welfare for both nations;

WHEREAS the KORUS FTA will immediately eliminate tariffs on almost two-thirds of U.S. agricultural exports worth over \$1.9 billion, thereby expanding consumption and demand;

WHEREAS the KORUS FTA will further liberalize the South Korean service market to U.S. business and strengthen overall transparency in key sectors including financial services, telecommunications, entertainment, legal services and express delivery;

WHEREAS the KORUS FTA provides state-of-the-art protection of intellectual property rights, a comprehensive set of strengthened protection measures for trademarks, copyrighted works (especially in cyberspace), and patents and the rigorous enforcement of provisions aimed at combating piracy and counterfeiting;

WHEREAS the KORUS FTA will provide greater U.S. access to the South Korean auto market by the elimination of South Korea's 8 percent automotive tariffs, the revamping of its engine displacement taxation system, special treatment of emissions and safety standards for U.S. automobiles and the expediting of the dispute settlement process with a "snap-back" mechanism;

WHEREAS nearly two million Americans of Korean heritage and descent live in the United States and are successfully engaged in numerous businesses and enterprises that would directly benefit from the KORUS FTA;

WHEREAS the Republic of Korea provided large forces to the Free World Forces in Vietnam during that resistance against Communist aggression;

WHEREAS the 21st Century has brought new armed threats to most of the world, ushering in the global war on terror;

WHEREAS the Republic of Korea is one of the staunchest and most reliable allies of the United States, having deployed the third largest coalition contingent in Iraq with a commitment of \$460 million to postwar reconstruction efforts and also has 200 troops stationed in Afghanistan;

WHEREAS the Republic of Korea was among the first nations to volunteer troops to the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Lebanon where they are committed at the present time;

WHEREAS the KORUS FTA will not only boost the bilateral economic and trade relationship, but will also further strengthen the alliance partnership to effectively deal with the new challenges and opportunities of the 21st century; **NOW, BE IT THEREFORE**

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations (USFKVO) urges the United States Congress to support the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) , and to approve it as early as possible; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the USFKVO urges other veterans organizations in the United States to support and promote this Resolution; **AND, BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

DONE AT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA,

September 29, 2007

Louis T Dechert

LOUIS T DECHERT, CO-CHAIRMAN, USFKVO

Jeff Brodeur

JEFFREY J BRODEUR, CO-CHAIRMAN, USFKVO