

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**



**Office of the United States Trade Representative
Ambassador Ron Kirk**

600 17TH Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508
202-395-6890 TEL
202-395-4549 FAX
www.ustr.gov

DATE: September 22, 2010

TOTAL PAGES: 2 incl. cover

FROM: Ambassador Ron Kirk c/o Ken Washington, Correspondence Analyst

TO: The Honorable Gregorio Sablan **RECIPIENT FAX:** (202) 226-4249

SUBJECT/MESSAGE: If you receive this transmission incomplete, please contact Ken Washington at (202) 395-9416.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

September 20, 2010

The Honorable Gregorio Sablan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4709

Dear Congressman Sablan:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing support for the President's announcement of his determination to resolve outstanding issues related to the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) so he can submit it to Congress. The President has asked me to respond.

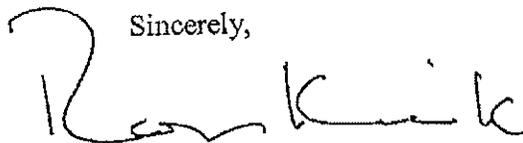
I very much appreciate the strong bipartisan support for this important initiative underscored by your letter. The KORUS FTA has the potential to bring significant economic and strategic benefits to the United States and contribute meaningfully to the Administration's efforts to double U.S. exports in five years. As you note, the agreement can also strengthen our relationship with a vital, democratic ally, and serve as a strong signal of our economic commitment and leadership in the Asia-Pacific region. The President is intent on bringing this important agreement across the finish line.

We have important work to do before the November G-20 Summit in Seoul. As you note, there are serious concerns with the agreement, particularly in the key sectors of autos and beef that will need to be resolved in order for the President to decide the FTA is ready for Congressional consideration. However, like you, I believe our goals are achievable within this timeframe, and we will be engaging in very intensive discussions with Korea in the coming weeks.

We have been consulting closely with stakeholders and Congress as we develop a package of proposals for addressing the outstanding issues, which we will present to Korea in the near future. I hope I can count on your active involvement and support in underscoring the benefits KORUS will bring to the United States.

I look forward to working closely with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Ron Kirk