

EARL BLUMENAUER
THIRD DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

TRADE

SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3703

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2267 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4811
FAX: (202) 225-8941

DISTRICT OFFICE:
729 N.E. OREGON STREET
SUITE 115
PORTLAND, OR 97232
(503) 231-2300
FAX: (503) 230-5413

website: blumenauer.house.gov

March 22, 2007

Dear Ambassador Bhatia,

I very much appreciated your appearance before our Trade Subcommittee the other day and your willingness to engage with me on issues concerning tobacco in the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement. This is an issue of great concern to me and my colleagues.

Because the time is short, I want to follow up with a letter outlining some specific concerns and questions that I hope you will address expeditiously:

- What special efforts have been made by USTR to ensure that the proposed FTA does not lead to an increase in tobacco use in South Korea or restrict the Korean government's ability to regulate or discourage tobacco use?
- Does the proposed FTA zero-out South Korea's tariffs on imported tobacco products?
- Does the agreement specifically exempt anti-smoking laws and regulations from challenge under the FTA?
- In what way does the proposed FTA deal with potential conflicts between the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), to which South Korea is a party, and the FTA?
- What impact do you believe the proposed FTA will have on smoking in South Korea? Is this impact consistent with United States public health goals?

In each of these areas, I believe there is a compelling case to treat tobacco and tobacco products differently than other agricultural products. As I hope to see a successful conclusion to these negotiations, I would ask that, in the time remaining, you and your office would work to ensure that there are broad exemptions for tobacco products and that the proposed FTA do nothing to limit the ability of either party to discourage or regulate tobacco use for reasons of public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earl Blumenauer".

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

cc: Chairman Sander Levin, Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade

Ambassador Karan Bhatia
Deputy United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20508