

Kaptur Leads Majority of House Democrats to Oppose NAFTA-Style Peru Trade Deal

Measure Passes Despite Votes of 116 Democrats

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (OH-9), a staunch opponent of NAFTA-style trade agreements that have undermined the U.S. economy, this evening led a majority of her Democratic colleagues in opposition to a flawed trade deal with Peru.

Despite spirited opposition by Kaptur and 115 Democratic colleagues, the Peru Free Trade Agreement ultimately passed the House by a vote of 285-132.

"Our country must turn away from the NAFTA model of trade agreements," said Kaptur, a 13-term member from Northern Ohio. "Workers and businesses in our country have borne the brunt of this failed approach to trade, and frankly they deserve better from THIS Congress.

"The American people, as well as the people of Peru, deserve more than the cosmetic changes that this deal represents.

"Once again the Congress has sided with the huge multinational corporations—especially financial institutions such as Citigroup—rather than the middle class and working people in America."

Kaptur said she remained optimistic that the "fair trade" forces will eventually prevail and bring a fundamental change to the trade policies that have resulted in huge trade deficits and economic stagnation in America.

Kaptur has been a leader in House battles against the North American Free Trade Agreement (1993), Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China (2000), and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (2005).

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