

JONI K. ERNST  
IOWA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE  
111 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
PHONE: 202-224-3254  
FAX: 202-224-9369  
WWW.ERNST.SENATE.GOV

## United States Senate

September 5, 2017

COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION  
AND FORESTRY  
ENVIRONMENT  
AND PUBLIC WORKS  
SMALL BUSINESS  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write to you today to express my strong concern with the rumored proposal to withdraw the United States from the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). This trade deal has been beneficial to both of our countries, with over \$144 billion in goods and services moving between us in 2016. One of our top trading partners, Korea represents our 7<sup>th</sup> largest goods export market, and stepping away from this deal could have many negative consequences.

Over its relatively short life span, KORUS has been particularly favorable for American agriculture, an area in which we enjoy a large trade surplus. Our ag exports to Korea totaled \$6.2 billion in 2016, compared to the \$519 million in ag products they sent to us. Korea is our 5<sup>th</sup> largest agricultural export market, and is particularly important for our beef, corn, and pork producers. Terminating KORUS would leave our farmers at a competitive disadvantage to those in other countries that enjoy preferential trade access to Korea. American farmers and ranchers would lose market share, and their profitability would be impacted at a time when they are already struggling with historically low commodity prices.

In addition to the negative impact on our family farms, backing out of this agreement could have geopolitical ramifications as well. We should be engaging more closely with countries in the Pacific Rim, and developing stronger trade ties with them. When I visit these nations, I hear overwhelmingly that they would like to do more trade with the U.S., and have their economies more closely integrated with ours. If we are not engaging with these nations, there is another economic force in the region that would gladly step in to fill that void and consolidate power, and that nation is China.

We should maintain and strengthen our ties with South Korea at a time of great tension in the region, and recommit to growing this trading relationship for our family farmers and ranchers across the country. I respectfully urge you not withdraw the U.S. from KORUS.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator

DES MOINES OFFICE  
733 FEDERAL BUILDING  
210 WALNUT STREET  
DES MOINES, IA 50309  
PHONE: 515-284-4574  
FAX: 515-284-4937

CEDAR RAPIDS OFFICE  
111 SEVENTH AVENUE SE  
SUITE 480  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401  
PHONE: 319-365-4504  
FAX: 319-365-4683

DAVENPORT OFFICE  
201 WEST SECOND STREET  
SUITE 806  
DAVENPORT, IA 52801  
PHONE: 563-322-0677  
FAX: 563-322-0854

SIoux CITY OFFICE  
194 FEDERAL BUILDING  
320 SIXTH STREET  
SIoux CITY, IA 51101  
PHONE: 712-252-1550  
FAX: 712-252-1638

COUNCIL BLUFFS OFFICE  
221 FEDERAL BUILDING  
8 SOUTH SIXTH STREET  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501  
PHONE: 712-352-1167  
FAX: 712-352-0087