Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28) issued the following statement in response to United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk's speech this morning at a forum sponsored in part by the Washington International Trade Association. In his speech, Kirk said that the US would pursue new trade opportunities in Asia as part of a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

"I don't plan to support any new trade agreements until this Administration finally annunciates a clear statement of policies and goals with respect to trade. We've been eagerly awaiting some guidance from the White House all year. Until this Administration starts to make sound investments in creating opportunities for American workers we should not be pursuing new trade packages that will hurt U.S. manufacturing. Administration officials need to start from scratch and work on a trade agreement that follows the principles of the Reciprocal Market Access Act and the TRADE Act and protects American jobs."