Rep. Slaughter is the author of [H.R. 1749, the Reciprocal Market Access Act](). This bill would put an end to the era of "giveaway trade" agreements like NAFTA, and finally provide American manufacturers with the tools they need to compete on a level playing field around the globe. Learn more about the Reciprocal Market Access Act below.

Background: Securing Reciprocal Market Access for U.S. Manufacturers

The U.S. industry faces significant non-tariff barriers ("NTBs") in key markets, preventing fair market access. These NTBs (see below) deny U.S. manufacturers current and future export opportunities. Eliminating the U.S. tariffs without securing elimination of NTBs is equivalent to unilateral disarmament – giving full advantage to our competitors, while allowing them to protect their home markets.

Under the current Doha negotiation process, tariff and non-tariff barriers are largely separate and self-contained, meaning that tradeoffs are tariff-for-tariff and non-tariff-for-non-tariff. The tariff cutting negotiation process does not provide the United States Trade Representative (USTR) the flexibility needed to exclude sectors that do not receive mutually beneficial trade concessions. As a result, a tariff can be reduced or eliminated without securing the elimination of the real barrier or barriers that deny market access to U.S. manufacturers' exports. This compartmentalization can undermine the limited leverage the U.S. has to secure market access. It is essential that we obtain meaningful market access in key markets. Without meaningful access, confidence in U.S. trade policy will continue to erode.

To enhance the tools available to our negotiators ensuring that the U.S. is able to achieve real reciprocity, the bipartisan Reciprocal Market Access Act was first introduced in 2007. It was reintroduced in the 111th Congress, and a companion bill, S.1766, was introduced by Senators Sherrod Brown and Kay R. Hagan. This legislation provides additional leverage for USTR and is designed to ensure that negotiations fully address the market access problems faced by U.S.

producers.

Summary of the Reciprocal Market Access Act, H.R. 1749

1. The legislation is designed to ensure that our trade negotiations achieve real and meaningful market access for our producers.
2. Authority to receive or eliminate tariffs in trade agreements is tied to achieving meaningful market access for U.S. domestic producers that have identified and worked with the U.S. government to address those barriers.
3. To better ensure meaningful market access, the bill requires that the President provide a certification to the Congress in advance of agreeing to a modification of any existing duty on any product, that sectoral reciprocal market access has been obtained.
4. This will enhance the partnership with Congress and achieve reciprocal market access.
5. It gives the government the automatic negotiated right to revoke concessions to cut tariffs if our trading partners don't implement the commitments they made to open up their markets.

6. This authority, known as "snap back" authority, could be triggered by a private sector or Congressional request. The goal – and the result – will be reciprocal market access for our nation's products.
7. Instructs the International Trade Commission to conduct an assessment of the impact of a prospective trade agreement on market opportunities and barriers for U.S. products or services that will be impacted by the trade agreement. This report will be submitted to Congress, USTR, and the Commerce Department no later than 45 days prior to the beginning of negotiations.

For the full text of the Reciprocal Market Access Act, click here.