

Representative Louise M. Slaughter (NY-28), Chair of the House Committee on Rules, released the following statement on President Obama's 2010 Trade Policy Agenda and 2009 Annual Report:

"I applaud the President's commitment to enforcement of our existing trade laws as well as the increased focus on non-tariff barriers in foreign markets. The President showed a new commitment toward trade enforcement last year when he levied a duty on Chinese tire in response to USW's Sec. 421 case. Any positive trade policy is rendered useless if we do not enforce the laws and policy. And it is critically important that the US demonstrate to foreign competitors that if they abuse existing trade laws, or if they engage in predatory practices, that our government will stand up for the rights of American companies and American workers. Additionally, non-tariff barriers are often the biggest inhibitor of American exports. They are also some of the most difficult to combat and correct. I hope that the President and USTR Kirk are able to find new solutions to the problems posed by non-tariff barriers and help open up the markets of our trading partners to American products."