

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today voted for two pieces of legislation aimed at creating jobs and supporting American manufacturing by improving federal “Buy American” purchasing rules.

These manufacturing-boosting bills require that Congress and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) purchase products that are Made in America.

“It is unacceptable, and frankly embarrassing, that proud Americans visiting the U.S. Capitol see goods in our gift shops made in China, Mexico, or anywhere but the United States,” said Slaughter. “This outrage did not happen overnight. It happened as a result of years of policies that have undermined the American worker. We are working hard on many fronts to restore a robust manufacturing sector, and I’m pleased that today, Congress lead by example in directly supporting products made by Americans for Americans.”

The bills, the Congressional Made in America Promise Act and the Berry Amendment Extension Act, apply to Congress and the DHS respectively. Both measures passed overwhelming in the House.

The Congressional Made in America Promise Act applies to “articles, materials, and supplies” such as office supplies and gift shop products in the House and Senate, including tighter Buy American requirements for items with the seal of Congress, the House, or Senate.

The Berry Amendment requires the DHS to supply its agencies with clothing and other materials that are Made in America, critical to helping the U.S. textile and apparel industry, which has been battered by a flood of imports.

The passage of these bills comes on the heels of a spate of recent congressional action boosting manufacturing and middle class jobs such as the closing of tax loopholes that

encourage companies to ship jobs overseas.

Slaughter, a member of the House Trade Working Group and House Manufacturing Caucus, has been a vocal advocate of domestic manufacturing. She introduced the Reciprocal Market Access Act which addresses market access issues from the beginning of the trade negotiating process, and helps to guarantee that any future trade agreements would benefit American workers and companies – not simply open our markets to foreign products. She is also an original cosponsor of the TRADE Act, which asks to evaluate and reassess our existing trade policy to ensure that it prioritizes citizens over corporations.