

## *Congressman Votes No on Three New Unfair Trade Deals, Calls for Action Against China's Illegal Currency Manipulation That Costs American Jobs*

Washington, DC -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) this week voted to restore worker retraining benefits, health care insurance assistance and other support for thousands of New Yorkers who lost their jobs as a result of unfair international trade, many of whom live in the Hudson Valley, Southern Tier and Finger Lakes Region. Several provisions of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program were allowed to lapse this past February when Republican leaders demanded the passage of additional unfair free trade agreements, which Hinchey says will cause the exportation of even more domestic manufacturing jobs. Hinchey also voted against three unfair trade deals, but in support of extending Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits. He also continued his push for an up or down vote on legislation that would put an end to illegal currency manipulation in China that unfairly stacks the deck against domestic workers and manufacturing.

"Millions of Americans have lost their jobs because of unfair trade deals, and as a result tens of thousands New Yorkers have had to rely on Trade Adjustment Assistance to get back on their feet," said Hinchey. "Nearly 19,000 New Yorkers are eligible for worker retraining programs, but unfortunately as many as half of those eligible have been denied benefits since February when many provisions of the program were allowed to lapse. Republicans demanded even more unfair trade deals in exchange for allowing a vote on extending Trade Adjustment Assistance. I voted to restore that program, but unfortunately the Republicans got their way and three additional unfair trade deals were pushed through. We need to wake up. It's time to fundamentally reassess our trade policy so that it protects the well-being of American workers. It's time to stop exporting our jobs and start exporting our products. That can't happen if we keep passing unfair trade deals."

According to the Department of Labor, since 1977 nearly 100 applications for TAA on behalf of tens of thousands of workers have been certified within the congressional district Hinchey represents. Last year, Hinchey announced that 380 workers who lost their jobs at the Emerson Power Transmission facility in Ithaca, New York would be eligible to apply for TAA. Hinchey called on the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to expedite that TAA application and make the benefits of the program available to Emerson workers as soon as possible. The DOL promptly responded, certifying the eligibility of the workers to apply for the adjustment assistance. At least 11 certifications are currently active, including those for hundreds of workers displaced by international trade from their positions at:

- International Business Machines Corp. (IBM), in Endicott, New York;
- B.W. Elliott Manufacturing Company, LLC, in Binghamton, New York;
- Manpower, Inc. in Endicott, New York;
- Manpower, Inc. in Poughkeepsie, New York;
- Cadence Design Systems, Inc. in Endicott, New York;
- Cadence Design Systems, Inc. in Lake Katrine, New York;
- Emerson power Transmission in Ithaca, New York;
- Westcode, Inc. in Binghamton, New York;
- Vail-Ballou Press, Inc. in Binghamton New York; and,
- BAE Systems Platform Solutions in Johnson City, New York.

TAA programs offer necessary retraining opportunities, health insurance assistance, and other crucial support to U.S. workers who lose their jobs due to the negative effects of international trade. Hinchey voted to extend the TAA program through December 31, 2013 and apply it retroactively back to February 12, 2011 when the program was allowed to lapse. The legislation also extends the Generalized System of Preferences, which lowers costs for American manufacturers and consumers, and helps poor countries develop and fight poverty, through July 31, 2013.

Hinchey also voted against three new unfair trade deals with Korea, Panama and Colombia. The trade deals, which were negotiated by the Bush administration, will place American workers at a competitive disadvantage. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the Korea trade deal would destroy 159,000 US jobs. In Columbia, 51 trade unionists were assassinated last year, and 22 more were killed this year. Panama is also known for routinely trampling workers rights.

Hinchey continues to press for action on The Bipartisan Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act. He is an original cosponsor of the bill and recently signed a petition to force an up or down vote in the House. The legislation recently passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support. The legislation would help to create at least 1 million manufacturing jobs here at home, strengthen small businesses, and boost our nation's competitiveness by demanding that China start playing fair on the global stage. Over the last nine months, the House Republican leadership has refused to bring the bipartisan China currency bill to the House floor for a vote even though it would clearly pass.

Hinchey has opposed unfair trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) because they cause the exportation of U.S. jobs. He is a cosponsor of the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act (TRADE Act), which would require a comprehensive review of major trade

agreements on the books, ensure that environmental labor and human rights standards are addressed in future agreements, and give Congress the authority it needs to assert its proper constitutional role in the trade negotiating process by significantly limiting future fast-track authority.