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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



EDWARD R. ROYCE
Fortieth District-California

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Subcommittees:
Chairman, Terrorism,
Nonproliferation, and Trade
Asia, and the Pacific

FINANCIAL SERVICES
Subcommittees:
Capital Markets and
Government Sponsored Enterprises
Financial Institutions and
Consumer Credit

October 4, 2011

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

I am writing to request that Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea, be afforded the opportunity to address a Joint Meeting of Congress when he visits the United States next week.

As you know, South Korea is a strong ally of the United States. In every aspect - whether it be in political, economic or security relations - the United States has no better friend in Asia, helping to maintain the peace in Northeast Asia for decades. It is not an overstatement to say that the U.S.-Korea relationship will help define the future of Asia.

Importantly, President Lee's visit comes as the House will be considering the historic U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, which will open up many new opportunities for U.S. businesses. I share your disappointment that the Obama Administration has waited so long to advance this key pact. But I am confident that President Lee's remarks to Congress would help to ensure its passage.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you to ensure that President Lee Myung-bak's visit to the United States is a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Royce".

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman, U.S.-Republic of Korea
Interparliamentary Exchange