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The Neal Asbury Show

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Congressman Kevin Brady Predicts that if America Stands on the Sidelines on Free Trade Issues, the Rest of World Prospers while America Loses



Appearing on The Neal Asbury Show on WZAB-AM, Kevin Brady, a Deputy Whip for the GOP and serving his seventh term in Congress representing the 8th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives, is concerned that the new administration wants to withdraw and retreat from trade competition, helping competitors prosper at the expense of American small business.

"Small businesses were essentially left out of the stimulus package. So now not only do they have limited access to capital, and are being taxed into failure, but by the U.S. sitting on the sideline on completing free trade agreements, companies have limited access to foreign markets, further eroding revenue and job creation," said Brady, who as a pro-small business conservative, has a strong belief in free enterprise, which guides him as the Senior House Republican on the Joint Economic Committee. Added Brady: "Do you realize that the government put more into buying public art than helping small businesses grow?"

As the White House's point man in the successful passage of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), Brady points to CAFTA as a real U.S. trade success story, turning a \$1 billion-a-year trade deficit with this region into a \$6 billion trade surplus in just two years. He constantly reminds Congressmen that this

would be the outcome for the other three pending Free Trade Agreements if they brought them to the floor for an "up or down" vote.

"We need to keep government out of decisions that affect small business. If we build a better mouse trap than anyone else, we should be able to sell it anywhere in the world without government interference," he concluded.

Another factor weighing down on small business is the new Administration's unbridled support of trade unions, and especially the proposed Employee Free Choice Act (also known as the Card Check Act), which Jonathan Eisen, Senior Vice President, International Foodservice Distributors Association, characterizes as a "dangerous piece of legislation."

Eisen explained that a provision of the Card Check Act is that if 50 percent plus one of employees signs a card supporting union representation, the employer must recognize the union. This is troubling to Eisen and his members because where unionization was once based on a private employee vote, now union organizers will be able to identify each employee's position, making the way for union coercion activities to force their pro-union vote.

"Only 7.6 percent of the private sector is unionized and only 12.4 percent of all government organizations are unionized. Doesn't this suggest that unions have fallen out of favor in this country?" he asked. Eisen and his organization have joined the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace, a coalition of more than 500 businesses and associations that are combating the Employee Free Choice Act.

Also joining in on The Neal Asbury Show discussion was John Manzella, president of Manzella Trade Communications and a world-recognized author and speaker on international trade, policy and business, who joins the show each week with his perspective. Manzella, speaking live from China during the show's discussion, reminded listeners that China is the world's third largest economy and America's second largest trading partner.

"China should be looked at as a friend, not as an adversary. U.S. exports to China are up 272 percent, so America needs to engage China to address problem areas, not find opportunities to find fault," said Manzella. "Chinese consumers want the same products that U.S. consumers do, so it makes sense to engage with China on trade. Most Americans aren't aware that while the Big 3 car companies are having problems with domestic sales, in China, GM is doing particularly well and is the second largest manufacturer there, commanding a 10 percent share of the Chinese market," he added.

The Neal Asbury Show tackles free trade and enterprise issues every week on WZAB-AM 880. The show is streamed live on line at WWW.880THEBIZ.COM, which is affiliated with Bloomberg Radio and CNBC, and can be heard on 920-WGKA (Atlanta); KSEV (Houston); 1500 AM (Washington D.C.); 1220-KDOW (San Francisco); and 1300-KKOL (Seattle).



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