



The Neal Asbury Show

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Asst. U.S. Trade Representative Sean Spicer Warns Neal Asbury Show Listeners That Inaction on Trade Issues by New Administration Will Further Erode Economy



Appearing on the Neal Asbury Show on WZAB-AM, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Public & Media Affairs, Sean M. Spicer warned listeners that if the newly elected administration sits on the sidelines regarding passing free trade agreements, this inactivity will further exacerbate the U.S. economy. Spicer noted that history has taught us not to put trade agreements on hold, citing what occurred during the 1930s when cutting trade agreements played a role in prolonging the Great Depression by delaying job growth.

Asbury proposed that the United States Trade Representative is the most important cabinet post in the

U.S. government since it is a primary driver of U.S. jobs.

Spicer predicted that if the incoming administration adopts some of the trade policies put forth during Obama's stump speeches, it will change the direction of America from a pro-trade country to one headed in a new and potentially-damaging direction.

Spicer reiterated that the U.S. continues to rank first in manufacturing world-wide, generating some \$1.6 trillion in revenue. Yet most Americans believe that China has usurped America's leadership, when in fact, China is a distant third, eclipsed by both the U.S. and Japan. Spicer suggested that part of the disconnect by American consumers is that U.S. media has failed to report the good news on trade (i.e. entrepreneurs expanding overseas trade), and instead, concentrates its coverage only on negative news, especially when U.S. companies move jobs overseas. The result is the growth of a "we can't compete" mentality which is false and a disservice to the majority of U.S. businesses which can compete anywhere in the world if they weren't saddled by a lack of free trade agreements. In fact, while a country such as Colombia has 53 trade agreements around the world, the U.S. only has 14, putting American exporters at a distinct disadvantage.

As an example, without a trade agreement with China, the U.S. is suffering from a \$280 billion trade deficit. If a trade agreement could be hammered out with China, this deficit would be reversed almost immediately, generating thousands of U.S. jobs. Relating to this issue, Spicer reminded listeners that while American manufacturers are being disadvantaged, American service companies such as those in finance and insurance, are enjoying success in China and around the globe.

In essence, Spicer suggested that when U.S. companies are forced to pay high tariffs and taxes, the American worker is really the one being punished. Just as United States Trade Representative Ambassador Susan C. Schwab urged listeners when she appeared on Asbury's show a week ago to get more involved in the free trade process, Spicer asked that Congress put the Colombian and South Korean trade agreements to an "up or down" vote. This could help U.S. exporters save billions of dollars in tariffs and create millions of U.S. jobs.

The Neal Asbury Show tackles key trade issues every Thursday from 11:00 AM until Noon WZAB-AM 880. The show is streamed live on line at WWW.880THEBIZ.COM, which is affiliated with Bloomberg Radio and CNBC.



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