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I take my one minute today to discuss CAFTA because there will be little meaningful debate on the most important trade bill of this congress. CAFTA is important. Less because of what is in it than what is not; because of what it represents.

I come from a trade oriented community and I believe in honest trade. I personally asked President Bush to insist upon bipartisan trade legislation that would command at least 250 votes in the chamber, which is possible if we are fair to workers at home and abroad. We also need to be more supportive of their environment. Instead, CAFTA has been crafted to be the lowest common denominator calculated to pass by pandering special interest groups. CAFTA reminds me of the old television show "Let's Make a Deal." This is a lost opportunity. I will no longer support suboptimal trade agreements and I await the day when we put principle and people before raw political calculation pretending that it's trade policy.