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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cafta: Good for the Goose, The Gander, and Everyone

Thea Lee's "The Skinny on Cafta" (editorial page, March 31) is skinny on the facts and fat with inaccuracies. The agreement is a win-win accord for all parties, for it strips away barriers to economic efficiency, supports stronger labor and environmental standards, and creates opportunities for workers and benefits for consumers in all signatory countries. Estimates envision U.S. economic welfare gains between \$135 million and \$248 million and an increase in U.S. exports to the world of \$1.9 billion. The effect on the U.S. economy will be minimal, while the economic growth in Central America and the Dominican Republic will bolster political stability and help create jobs for workers who might otherwise immigrate to the U.S. illegally.

As our Cafta trading partners tear down their import barriers, greater exports of U.S.-made consumer and industrial goods will flow into the region, generating employment not only among a great many small businesses in the region, but here at home by U.S. exporting firms—many of whose workers are members of the union organization Ms. Lee represents.

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