



STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-COLOMBIA TRADE ALLIANCE

July 13, 2011

The Message is Clear...It's Time to Approve the U.S.-Colombia FTA

From state and federal lawmakers to U.S. employers and farmers and ranchers, there is widespread support for Congressional approval of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as soon as possible. These diverse voices are unified in asserting that now is the time to enact the FTA to begin realizing its benefits – **increasing U.S. GDP by nearly \$2.5 billion, boosting U.S. exports by \$1.1 billion and supporting thousands of jobs** in the United States and Colombia.

"This trade agreement is a no cost way to create jobs at home and grow our economy...We urge the Administration to send to Congress the Colombian Trade Promotion Agreement without further delay, in order to allow passage of the agreement as early as possible in July."

- **Colombia Caucus Co-Chairs Reps. Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and Aaron Schock (R-IL)**

"...South Korea, Colombia, and Panama are growing export markets for American employers; and under existing U.S. tariff schedules most products from these three countries already enter the United States duty free; and the three proposed Free Trade Agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama will ensure immediate duty free access for the vast majority of U.S. exports to these markets."

- **The Council of State Governments**

"Time is of the essence. It's important that Congress acts quickly to vote on the package by August recess. If not, we stand to lose this opening and it will come at a cost to America's farmers and ranchers. After more than four years, we cannot afford to miss this opportunity."

- **Bob Stallman, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation**

"It is imperative that the agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea be approved before Congress takes its month-long break. U.S. pork producers need new and expanded market access to remain competitive in the global marketplace. And the way to get that is through free trade agreements."

- **Doug Wolf, President of the National Pork Producers Council**