



# STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-COLOMBIA TRADE ALLIANCE

May 12, 2011

## Policymakers, Administration Officials Express Support for U.S.-Colombia FTA

In a [Senate Finance Committee hearing](#) yesterday and a [House Agriculture Committee hearing](#) today, Administration and Congressional leaders highlighted the importance of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to U.S. economic growth and job creation.

### *What They Said...*



*"Rather than compete, our economies complement each other...Our economic relationship with Colombia has helped U.S. businesses grow and has created jobs for American workers."*

**- Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), Chairman, Senate Finance Committee**



*"The agreement will affect the lives of workers across the United States in a positive way...The agreement also will provide better access for U.S. service providers, telecommunication companies, and agricultural exporters."*

**- Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee**



*"Together, they [the Santos and Obama administrations] have constructed a realistic, achievable, and substantive action plan to address the bedrock concerns I and others have had. That joint work, combined with the benefits this agreement holds for jobs in America, have led me to conclude that it is time to approve this trade agreement and move forward together."*

**- Sen. John Kerry (D-MA), Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee**



*"For agriculture, according to the USDA/ERS report, the agreement is estimated to generate an increase of 44 percent in U.S. exports, or an additional \$370 million per year."*

**- Ron Kirk, U.S. Trade Representative**



*"On day one of implementation of the Colombia agreement, U.S. exporters receive immediate duty-free treatment on products accounting for almost 70 percent of current trade."*

**- Tom Vilsack, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture**



*"The International Trade Commission has estimated that it will expand exports of U.S. goods to Colombia by more than a billion dollars, increase U.S. GDP by \$2.5 billion, and support thousands of additional jobs for our workers."*

**- Miriam Sapiro, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative**



*"The new administration of President Santos has committed to move forward to create a more peaceful and just society. With the Action Plan and other measures, the United States is assisting Colombia to achieve these goals."*

**- Sandra Polaski, Deputy Undersecretary of Labor for International Affairs**