



STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-COLOMBIA TRADE ALLIANCE

July 19, 2011

In Case You Missed It...

On Saturday, July 16, a bipartisan group of prominent former U.S. government officials penned an op-ed, which appeared in *The Washington Post* and stressed the sense of urgency for Congress to approve the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement before the August recess. Below is an excerpt.

The Washington Post

Op-ed: Pass These Trade Pacts

By John D. Negroponte, Mack McLarty, Jim Jones and Robert Mosbacher, Jr.

July 16, 2011

Excerpt: “The U.S. economy needs swift approval of the pending free-trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea....The longer the United States delays, the larger market share U.S. producers lose as global competitors fill the void. Take Colombia, a crucial market and a valuable ally in a strategically important region. While U.S. exporters continue to face high tariffs and declining market share, Argentina and Brazil are already taking the market from U.S. agricultural producers, and a Colombian free-trade deal with Canada will come online in barely a month.

“Both the administration and congressional Republicans profess an appropriate sense of urgency regarding passage of the trade agreements....[W]e must depend on our leaders to find common ground and, in this case, quickly resolve an impasse that threatens to undermine our engagement with the world economy. The reward would be the creation of new jobs and opportunities for workers and businesses across the country.”

To read the full text, click [here](#).

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