

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 19, 2011

**CONTACT:**

Kirk Monroe  
(202) 496-3269

Joe Crea  
(202) 496-3288

**Business Roundtable Statement on U.S.-Panama Progress**

**Washington** – [Business Roundtable](#) today released the following statement:

“The announcement that the United States and Panama have resolved outstanding issues in their trade agreement is excellent news for America’s economy. The Administration is now ready to begin technical discussions with Congress on the draft implementing bill, an important milestone as they work together to realize the benefits of stronger trade with Panama.

“Congress and the Administration are close to finalizing our pending agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama. Together, these trade pacts will create new opportunities for American companies and workers, ensure fairness and accountability in the international economy and open new markets for American goods and services in these countries.

“This latest development is a clear sign that we are on the right path to strengthen America’s economy. We look forward to the final bipartisan plan to ratify all three agreements.”

###

*Business Roundtable (BRT) is an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies with nearly \$6 trillion in annual revenues and more than 13 million employees. BRT member companies comprise nearly a third of the total value of the U.S. stock market and invest more than \$114 billion annually in research and development – nearly half of all private U.S. R&D spending. Our companies pay more than \$179 billion in dividends to shareholders.*

*BRT companies give nearly \$9 billion a year in combined charitable contributions.*

*Please visit us at [www.brt.org](http://www.brt.org), check us out on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#).*