

***US-Colombia Business Partnership Welcomes Movement by Obama Administration on the Colombia Free Trade Agreement***

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The US-Colombia Business Partnership notes the Obama Administration has today formally outlined an action plan on the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement thereby moving the Colombia FTA one step closer towards submission to Congress. The member companies of the US-Colombia Business Partnership strongly support the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement and call for its prompt consideration and passage.

The US-Colombia Business Partnership (USCBP) is a non-profit 501(c)(6) business organization comprised of U.S. companies with over \$12 billion dollars of investment collectively in Colombia. The USCBP represents a broad coalition of industries representing companies in the energy, pharmaceutical, consumer products, financial services, technology, insurance, and transportation industries. Our member companies bring direct foreign investment, build roads, schools, incentives for innovation, and high tech training while affording true alternative economic development to thousands of Colombians and simultaneously benefiting the U.S. economy.

The USCBP believes increased trade via the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) furthers economic stability and lessens the dependence and temptation of illicit trade. The US-Colombia FTA will strengthen democratic institutions in Colombia that are under threat by violent actors in Colombian society – guerrillas, self-defense forces and narco-traffickers competing for billions in illegal drug profits, targeting institutions, infrastructure, union members, and civilians in their deadly crossfire. Legitimate trade brings more legitimate jobs and opportunity.

Our organization looks forward to continuing to work with Members of Congress and educating them about the benefits of the Colombia FTA to the nation and the U.S. economy. It remains critically important to help our strongest ally in all of Latin America both with a free trade agreement that benefits both of our countries and a continued security and rule of law assistance package that can help to bring stability and peace.

