



COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
CHAIRMAN DAVE CAMP

HEARING ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Camp to Lead Bipartisan Fact-Finding Mission on
Job-Creating Trade Pact with Colombia**

Washington, DC – Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) will be leading a bipartisan congressional delegation to Colombia on April 18, 2011. The intense two-day mission will examine the continuing work on the Action Plan Related to Labor Rights and the pending trade agreement between the United States and Colombia. Without action prior to July 1, U.S. businesses, workers, farmers, and ranchers risk losing further market share to countries that have already reached free trade agreements with Colombia.

- WHO:** Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI)
Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX)
Colombia Caucus co-chairman Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
Colombia Caucus co-chairman and Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee member Adrian Smith (R-NE)
Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee member Aaron Schock (R-IL)
- WHAT:** Bipartisan meetings with Colombian president, cabinet, labor leaders and employers
- WHEN:** Monday, April 18
- WHERE:** Bogota, Colombia
- PRESS AVAIL:** There is a tentative press conference scheduled on Tuesday, April 19, after President Santos meets with Members of Congress.

Background Information on the Need for the Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement

America falling behind:

Passing the Colombia trade agreement by July 1 is a bipartisan goal. The United States cannot afford to sit on the sidelines while the rest of the world is actively concluding new trade agreements without us. While the agreement was delayed for nearly four years, Colombia concluded trade agreements with other countries, whose exporters now have a competitive advantage and pay lower tariffs than U.S. firms must pay on their exports to Colombia.

Lowering barriers to U.S. goods and creating a level playing field:

The Colombia trade agreement would eliminate or substantially lower the tariffs and non-tariff barriers on U.S. exports in all sectors and create job opportunities in the United

States. Most imports from Colombia already enter the United States duty free, although Colombia's duty-free treatment was interrupted when the Andean Trade Preferences Act recently expired. The agreement would eliminate, or substantially lower, the tariffs on U.S. exports to Colombia, leveling the playing field.

Creating quality U.S. jobs and expanding U.S. exports:

Moving forward now to ensure congressional consideration by July 1 of all three pending trade agreements, including the Colombia agreement, is a sure-fire way to create good U.S. jobs and boost economic growth by opening new markets for U.S. goods and services – and it does not require one dime of new government spending.

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