



ASSOCIATION OF
EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

AGRICULTURE
CONSTRUCTION
FORESTRY
MINING
UTILITY

June 30, 2011

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus:

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) applauds the action taken today by the Senate Finance Committee to begin the legislative process of enacting the Colombia, Korea and Panama Free Trade Agreements. AEM is the U.S.-based international trade group serving the off-road equipment manufacturing industry. Our members number over 870 companies that manufacture equipment, products and services used worldwide in the agriculture, construction, forestry, mining and utility fields, and employ hundreds of thousands of American workers.

U.S. construction and agricultural equipment exports to Colombia and Panama currently face tariffs as high as 15 percent, while over 90 percent of Colombian and Panamanian exports enter into the U.S. duty-free each year. Such an inequitable status of trade undermines U.S. businesses and certainly is not fair to American workers. Correcting financial imbalances is at the core of making trade policy more favorable for U.S. job creation and attaining President Obama's National Export Initiative's goal of doubling U.S. exports within the next five years.

Failure to enact all three agreements in the coming weeks is not an option. Countries around the world are taking advantage of America's inaction by signing their own bilateral trade agreements – eliminating trade barriers, creating jobs and diminishing market share for American exports manufactured throughout our entire nation. Swiftly enacting all three pending free trade agreements is a vital step towards establishing a concrete foundation of solid fiscal policies that grant American manufacturers access to emerging markets and enhances our global competitiveness.

AEM strongly supports the Senate Finance Committee's action today to advance the Korea, Colombia and Panama Free Trade Agreements and we urge your continued support in enacting these pro-export and pro-growth trade policies.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Slater
President

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