

June 28, 2011

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE STATEMENT ON SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Washington – “Business Roundtable welcomes the progress represented by Chairman Baucus’ announcement that the Senate Finance Committee will consider the pending Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. Business Roundtable calls on congressional leaders and the President to work together with a sense of urgency to resolve the remaining issues and enact these trade agreements before the August recess,” [Business Roundtable](#) President [John Engler](#) said.

“There really can be no more excuse for inaction. The agreements will level the playing field with several of our biggest competitors in these three markets by lowering tariffs on U.S. exports. By making our products more competitive, these agreements will increase business activity in the United States, maintaining and expanding U.S. employment. If jobs are really a priority for the Administration and Congress, then enacting these job-creating agreements must also be a priority.

“Support for a broad, positive trade agenda enjoys a long bipartisan tradition in Congress, as do such programs as Trade Adjustment Assistance, the Generalized System of Preferences and the Andean Trade Preference Act. Business Roundtable continues to believe in the merit of these programs.”