

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2007

**Support the U.S.-Colombia Trade
Promotion Agreement**

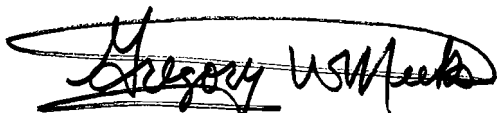
Dear Colleague:

We write to urge your support for the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement and its prompt passage with a strong bipartisan vote. We would also like to share with you the attached letter from 32 ambassadors and chiefs of mission of the United States in the Western Hemisphere in support of our pending free trade agreements in the region.

As they state in their letter, more than simply inflated economic statistics, the trade agreements "represent our determination as a nation to promote prosperity, security, good governance, and social justice in our Hemisphere. They will contribute to tangible, meaningful improvements in the daily lives of the people of these countries - positively affecting both the economic and social development of the region by creating jobs and reducing poverty."

The trade agreement with Colombia is worthy of all our support - on a bipartisan basis. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us directly.

Sincerely,



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress



United States Department of State

*Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20520-6258*

December 6, 2007

Dear Members of Congress:

We commend the United States Congress for approving the free trade agreement with Peru, and are writing to urge you to support the pending free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama. As the United States Ambassadors and Chiefs of Mission in the Western Hemisphere, we offer our views in a candid and bipartisan spirit, informed by our long involvement in international relations from Ottawa to Buenos Aires.

The trade benefits are significant, but these agreements represent much more than trade – they represent our determination as a nation to promote prosperity, security, good governance, and social justice in our Hemisphere. They will contribute to tangible, meaningful improvements in the daily lives of the people of these countries – positively affecting both the economic and social development of the region by creating jobs and reducing poverty.

From our vantage as Ambassadors and Chiefs of Mission in the region, these agreements are an effective tool we can employ to help our neighbors build the just, prosperous, stakeholder societies they seek – societies whose success is critical to the region's stability and security. Moreover, these agreements and their vigorous implementation help foster the type of regional partners America needs by including strong provisions designed to fight corruption, increase transparency, and foster accountability and the rule of law.

We are at a crucial moment in U.S. engagement in the Western Hemisphere. Failure to approve these agreements promptly will be a tremendous setback for the United States, for our neighbors, and for the pragmatic and positive vision that unites us. It will likewise be a clear victory for those in the region who advocate an authoritarian, anti-market, and anti-U.S. vision for the future of the Americas.

We urge you to choose to continue to support the tremendous progress underway in the Americas and to vote to approve the pending trade agreements with Colombia and Panama during the 110th Congress.

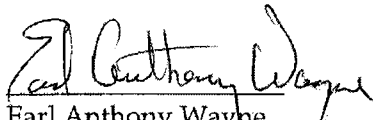
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas A. Shannon".

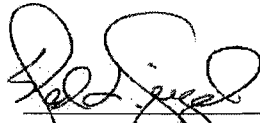
Thomas A. Shannon
Assistant Secretary, WHA
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs


Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles S. Shapiro".


Charles S. Shapiro
Senior Coordinator, Western
Hemisphere Free Trade Agreements

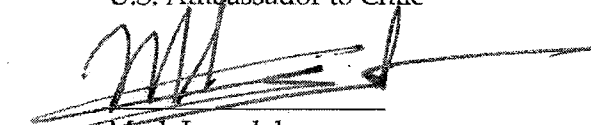

Earl Anthony Wayne
U.S. Ambassador to Argentina

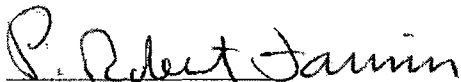

Ned L. Siegel
U.S. Ambassador to The Bahamas

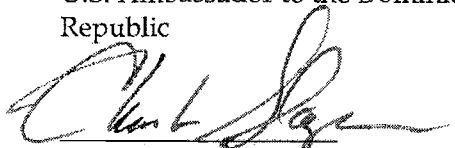

Robert J. Dieter
U.S. Ambassador to Belize

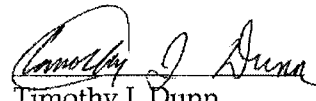

Clifford M. Sobel
U.S. Ambassador to Brazil

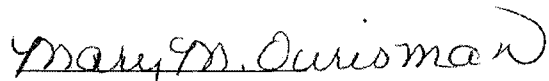

Paul E. Simons
U.S. Ambassador to Chile

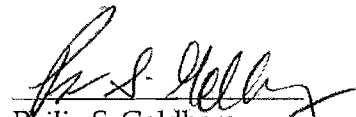

Mark Langdale
U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica

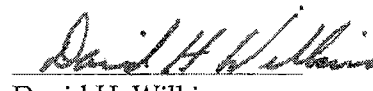

R. Robert Fannin
U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican
Republic

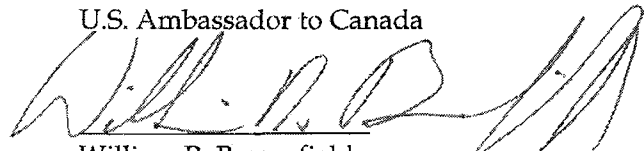

Charles L. Glazer
U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador

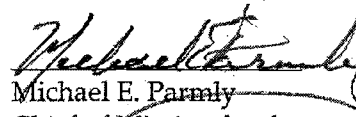

Timothy J. Dunn
Consul General to Aruba and
the Netherlands Antilles

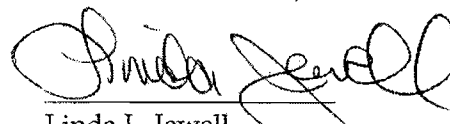

Mary M. Ourisman
U.S. Ambassador to Barbados
and the Eastern Caribbean

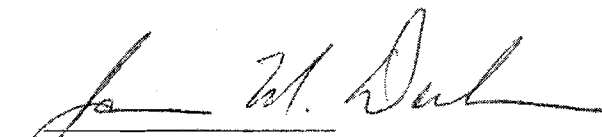

Philip S. Goldberg
U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia

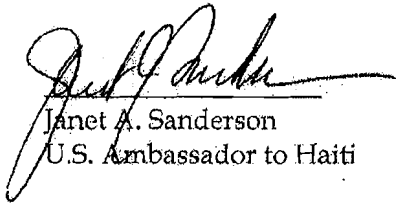

David H. Wilkins
U.S. Ambassador to Canada

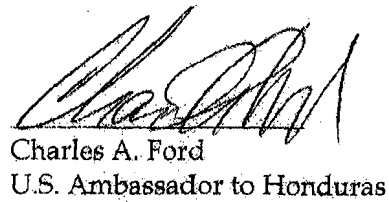

William R. Brownfield
U.S. Ambassador to Colombia

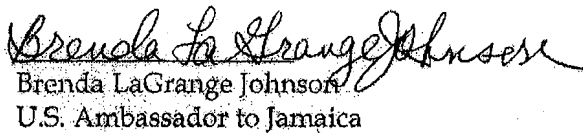

Michael E. Parmly
Chief of Mission for the
U.S. Interests Section, Cuba

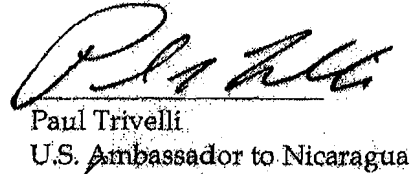

Linda L. Jewell
U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador

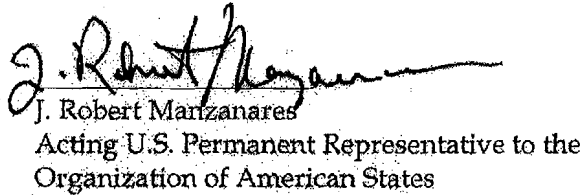

James M. Derham
U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala

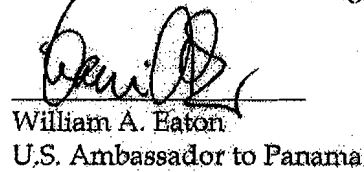

Janet A. Sanderson
U.S. Ambassador to Haiti

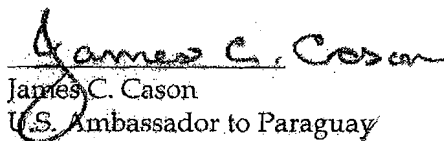

Charles A. Ford
U.S. Ambassador to Honduras

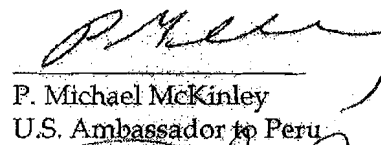

Brenda LaGrange Johnson
U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica

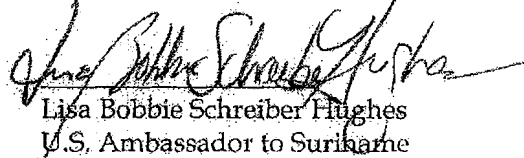

Paul Trivelli
U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua

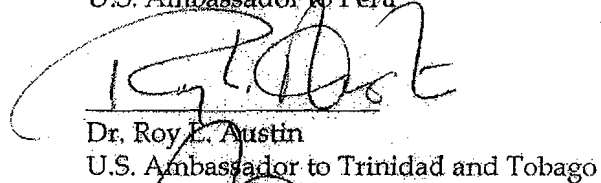

J. Robert Manzanares
Acting U.S. Permanent Representative to the
Organization of American States

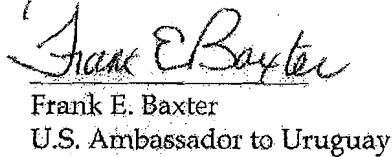

William A. Eaton
U.S. Ambassador to Panama

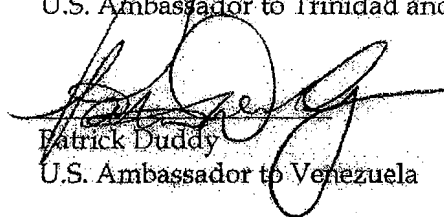

James C. Cason
U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay

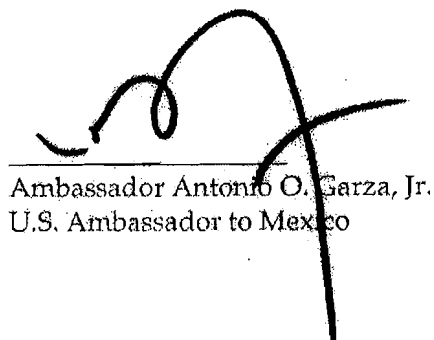

P. Michael McKinley
U.S. Ambassador to Peru

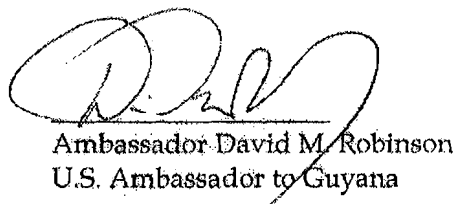

Lisa Bobbie Schreiber Hughes
U.S. Ambassador to Suriname


Dr. Roy E. Austin
U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago


Frank E. Baxter
U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay


Patrick Duddy
U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela


Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr.
U.S. Ambassador to Mexico


Ambassador David M. Robinson
U.S. Ambassador to Guyana