

**News Release****June 28, 2011****For Immediate Release****Contact: Stephanie Henry  
202-659-5147****ECAT WELCOMES FINANCE COMMITTEE MOVEMENT ON TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH  
COLOMBIA, KOREA AND PANAMA**

**Washington, D.C., June 28, 2011:** Calman Cohen, President of the Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT), issued the following statement after the announcement of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus that the Committee will hold a mock markup on the pending trade agreements with Colombia, Korea and Panama on Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>:

“ECAT strongly supports passage of the trade agreements with Colombia, Korea and Panama as soon as possible this year and, therefore, welcomes the Finance Committee announcement that it will hold a mock markup of the three agreements on Thursday.

“These three agreements will open markets for U.S. farmers, manufacturers, service providers and their workers by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers and setting in place strong rules to protect intellectual property and investment and guarantee transparency. With the European Union poised to gain preferential access to Korea’s market on July 1<sup>st</sup> and Canada poised to gain similar access to Colombia’s market by August 15<sup>th</sup>, the United States will be further left behind if it doesn’t move quickly to approve and bring its own trade agreements into force.

“The trade-agreement legislation before the Finance Committee on Thursday also incorporates an extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and the Andean Trade Preferences Act (ATPA). ECAT has long supported each of these important programs.

“ECAT welcomes the leadership of Members in both the House and Senate to move the pending trade agreements forward this year and urges House and Senate Members to work together on a bipartisan basis to complete this work as soon as possible before the August recess.”

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*Founded in 1967, ECAT is an organization of the heads of leading U.S. international business enterprises representing all major sectors of the American economy. Their annual worldwide sales exceed \$2.7 trillion and they employ more than 6.2 million persons. ECAT’s purpose is to promote economic growth through the expansion of international trade and investment.*