

H T B A

Hispanic Trade & Business Alliance

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H232 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of the member organizations of the Hispanic Trade & Business Alliance, we respectfully urge the consideration and approval of the Colombia Fair Trade Agreement during this session of Congress. The approval of this trade agreement, which was formulated under a bipartisan, historic and precedent setting fair trade framework, is of vital interest to securing our nation's long term economic and diplomatic strength in the Western Hemisphere.

We believe that fair trade is the best vehicle to help improve U.S. relations with our neighbors to the south and that the advantages derived from such fair trade agreements greatly benefit America economically. The Colombian fair trade agreement that is pending in Congress was negotiated in good faith by the Administration and the Congressional leadership to include the strongest labor and environmental provisions of any trade agreement considered by the United States in history.

This agreement will bolster the efforts of President Uribe and the Colombian people as they continue to collaborate with the United States in the fight against those forces seeking to destabilize the region through drugs and terror. It is also worthwhile to note that arguments about violence committed against labor organizers have been condemned in the national media as exaggerated and blind to the extraordinary and successful efforts of the Uribe administration to reduce violent crime and provide security to union officials.

Perhaps most importantly, this agreement will aid our own American economy by eliminating 80% of tariffs on American exports to Colombia which will spur American industry and create much needed U.S. jobs.

The Colombian Fair Trade Agreement clearly promotes the American economy and the American worker.

As Hispanic Americans, we are keenly aware of both the benefits and challenges of America's diplomatic and trade relationship with Latin America. This agreement will promote the long sought and elusive concept of "fair trade" and propose a win-win scenario for businesses and workers on both sides of the border. We ask that you bring the Colombian Fair Trade Agreement up for a vote this year in 2008 without any further delay.

Sincerely,

/ S / signatories attached

Mr. Danny Vargas, President, VARCom Solutions
Mr. Jose Niño, former President, USHCC
Mr. Massey Villarreal, USHCC
Mr. Hector Barreto, former Administrator, SBA
Ambassador Otto Reich
Ambassador Hans Hertell

Colombian American Chamber of Commerce, Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia
Federal Allies Institute
Hispanic 100
Hispanic Alliance for Prosperity Institute
Hispanic Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform
Hispanic Leadership Fund
Hispanic Voting Alliance
Honduran Unity
Latin American Voters League
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
National Coalition of Latino Clergy & Christian Leaders
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
Peruvian American National Roundtable
Republican National Hispanic Alliance
Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ
Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Yonkers Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Hispanic Business Development Network
Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey
El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, TX
New York State Federation of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce
Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, VA
Latin Chamber of Commerce of U.S.A. (CAMACOL)
Hemispheric Congress
Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, TX
Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, CA
North Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
U.S-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Energetica Communications Group
Hertell Group, LLC
JCM International Group LLC
Manchester Trade Ltd.