



## NEWS:

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For Immediate Release

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### **GMA: CONGRESS SHOULD VOTE ON U.S.-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT THIS YEAR**

(Washington, D.C.) Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) President and CEO Cal Dooley today issued the following statement regarding the vote in the House of Representatives to suspend Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) for the US-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (US-CTPA):

“GMA opposes the vote in the House of Representatives to suspend TPA for the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement,” said Dooley. “This vote sets a dangerous precedent that threatens pending free trade agreements, as well as threatening the ability of the United States to negotiate future trade agreements. Trade Promotion Authority requires bipartisan cooperation to succeed.

“GMA strongly supports the passage of the US-CTPA and we strongly urge House leadership to work with the Administration in good faith to bring the Agreement up for a clean up or down vote this year. The negotiations with Colombia were concluded more than a year ago, and this Agreement deserves to be considered by the U.S. Congress as soon as possible. It is imperative that today’s action not be the end of discussions. It is critical that a path be found to bring the Colombian agreement to a vote.

“Colombia is a long-term friend and ally to the United States. Passage of the US-CTPA is not only important to bolstering our economy during a time of downturn, but also vital to our national security, recognizing a government that has made great strides in restoring peace and security to its citizens in a volatile region.

“Colombia already enjoys duty-free treatment on the vast majority of their exports to the United States under a one-way trade preference program. For the first time ever, upon passage of this trade agreement, Colombia will immediately open its market to 80 percent of U.S. exports immediately, including duty free access for many processed food products – a win-win for Americans and the people of Colombia. Congress must act on this Agreement to allow U.S. workers, manufacturers, farmers and service providers to realize the opportunities that exist in Colombia.”

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The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) represents the world’s leading food, beverage and consumer products companies. The association promotes sound public policy, champions initiatives that increase productivity and growth and helps to protect the safety and security of the food supply through scientific excellence. The GMA board of directors is comprised of chief executive officers from the association’s member companies. The \$2.1 trillion food, beverage and consumer packaged goods industry employs 14 million workers, and contributes over \$1 trillion in added value to the nation’s economy. For more information, visit the GMA Web site at [www.gmaonline.org](http://www.gmaonline.org).