

# NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, INC.

1625 K STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1604

TEL: (202) 887-0278



FAX: (202) 452-8160

May 7, 2008

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As this week marks the one-year anniversary of the May 10 bipartisan agreement on trade reached between Congress and the Administration, the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC) and its member companies, urge you to continue working with the Speaker on a plan for timely congressional consideration and approval of pending free trade agreements, beginning with the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.

During this time of economic uncertainty, it is critical that Congress and the Administration engage in a robust, bipartisan dialogue about how best to advance the U.S. trade agenda and expand and enhance important domestic programs, including Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

At its core, the May 10 agreement was a commendable bipartisan effort to ensure that U.S. free trade agreements (FTAs) contain strong labor rights and environmental protection provisions. Similar to the U.S.-Peru FTA, which was approved with a solid bipartisan vote in December, the U.S.-Colombia FTA and agreements with Panama and South Korea were revised to incorporate provisions agreed to on May 10, 2007.

One year later, Congress has an opportunity to consider and approve the U.S.-Colombia FTA. The economic and social arguments for the Colombia agreement are clear, as the FTA will afford U.S. exporters reciprocal access to the Colombian market and provide a structural framework to help Colombia continue its progress forward as a stable, democratic, economically viable global stakeholder. The U.S.-Colombia FTA deserves to be considered, and we commend your efforts to make the agreement a congressional priority. We urge you to continue working with the Speaker on a bipartisan course of action so Members can vote on the merits of the agreement as soon as possible.

While the Colombia agreement, as well as those negotiated with Panama and South Korea, will help to boost U.S. economic growth, it is equally as important to ensure that American workers adversely impacted by trade and technological advancements have the social safety net they need to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy. We urge you to work together with Congress to approve an expanded and enhanced TAA program that

makes adequate provisions for worker training and retraining, and provides access to the benefits workers need to get back on their feet.

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Moving forward on both fronts will require Congress and the Administration to return to the spirit of bipartisanship embodied in the May 10 agreement, and we urge you to do your part to revitalize that spirit.

Sincerely,

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William A. Reinsch  
President

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May 7, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

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May 7, 2008

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
H-107 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Hoyer:

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May 7, 2008

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Minority Leader Boehner:

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The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Minority Leader McConnell:

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May 7, 2008

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel:

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May 7, 2008

The Honorable James McCrery  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
242 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member McCrery:

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May 7, 2008

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus:

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May 7, 2008

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Grassley:

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