

SUMMER TRADE NEWS

Support for Free Trade Agreements Heats Up

Excerpts from Recent Media Stories

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EDITORIALS

Bullying Latin America (Baltimore Sun - MD)

August 2, 2007

“But at least Peru and Panama can see a way clear to a vote, possibly this summer but more likely in autumn. Unfortunately, opponents of the Colombia agreement have positioned it as a ‘reward’ that Colombia does not ‘deserve,’ rather than what it truly is: a critical vehicle to assist the Colombian people to defeat the scourges of narcotics trafficking and the vicious violence of unreconstructed guerrillas....Importantly, the Colombia free trade agreement would also open a market to U.S. exports that has been closed, despite the fact that the U.S. market is open to Colombian goods. Rather than a reward for Colombia, this deal is a critical building block of U.S. strategic interests in the region.”

Mr. Rangel’s Tour (The Washington Post)

August 5, 2007

“Peru is one of three Latin American countries -- the other two are Panama and Colombia -- with which the Bush administration has recently negotiated free-trade agreements. The dollar value of these deals is infinitesimal in comparison to the \$13 trillion U.S. economy. Total U.S.-Peru trade was \$8.8 billion in 2006. But to U.S. friends in a region increasingly challenged by the anti-American populism of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, the pacts mean a lot, economically and politically. And that should mean a lot to Congress.”

Trading Without America (The Wall Street Journal)

August 7, 2007

“By defeating the Korean FTA, Congress would be pushing Seoul further into China's orbit and diminishing American influence....More broadly, as the Doha multilateral trade round sputters, the rest of the world is pursuing FTAs whether or not the U.S. joins the party. We'd prefer a world with everyone trading by the same open-market rules. But if Doha is going to fail, it makes no sense for the U.S. to sit on the sidelines and let other countries give their companies and workers an edge over Americans in growing economies.”

Democratic Congress Endangers Free Trade (San Antonio Express-News - TX)

August 11, 2007

“America is sending the wrong message to allies about free trade and losing share in the global marketplace as it does so. There's room to improve the safety net for U.S. workers displaced by competitive forces. But that's no excuse for Congress to let trade prospects die a slow death — something Democratic leaders seem content to do.”

Politicians Play Loose With Free Trade Fact (The Detroit News - MI)

August 12, 2007

“Open trade will benefit America as much or more as its trading partners as long as the country takes advantage of its technological and intellectual advantages. The world wants what we have to offer, and free trade should be seen as an opportunity, not a threat....In the end, protectionism will lead to fewer jobs for American workers and higher prices for American consumers.”

Stabilizing Colombia (The Washington Times)

August 13, 2007

“While Colombian President Alvaro Uribe has proven himself a vigorous advocate for narcotic eradication who has made overseen major improvements to the economic and political stability of his nation (particularly when compared to predecessors), there is undoubtedly much room for improvement. Congress must continue its trajectory for improving Plan Colombia and approve the Colombia free trade agreement.”

No More Excuses (Orlando Sentine- FL)

August 13, 2007

“Our position: Congress should move ahead on lucrative free-trade deal with Peru....Products from Peru already enjoy duty-free access to the United States under preference programs....The free-trade deal would give U.S. products reciprocal access. That's especially important for Florida, because Peru is among the state's leading export destinations....The deal would strengthen U.S. ties with an ally against drug trafficking and terrorism. It would counter the anti-American influence of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez.”

Politics As Local Or Plumb 'Loco' (Washington Times)

August 14, 2007

“By refusing to consider the U.S.-Colombian free trade agreement, Democratic leaders in Congress pervert local U.S. politics and are acting loco, as they put America's best friend in Latin America in grave danger, thereby seriously threatening the stability of Latin America, accurately described as the United States' backyard, geographically and strategically.”

Approve Trade Deals Around The Pacific (Seattle Times - WA)

August 15, 2007

“Washington's delegation in Congress should support the trade agreements that have been signed with Peru, Colombia, Panama and South Korea.”

Lying About Trade (San Diego Union Tribune - CA)

August 16, 2007

“What's particularly perverse about America's lurch toward economic know-nothingism is that it comes even as the rest of the world comes around to the wisdom of the free-market U.S. approach. After watching the United States create 10 times as many private sector jobs in the 1980s and 1990s – 40 million vs. 4 million – Europe now has similar job-creation numbers, thanks to its moves away from statism.”

Defective Good Shouldn't Deter Free Trade Policy (Portland Press Herald – ME)

August 18, 2007

“But our current free-trade pacts are adding jobs, not taking them away....Trade does cause disruption, but to focus on that disruption and not on the overall benefits would be poor policy.”

Pandering On Trade Policy Bad For Business (The Denver Post -CO)

August 20, 2007

“The trade pacts now pending before Congress are designed to knock down existing barriers to U.S. exports. Congress should approve these job-creating trade pacts when it returns from its August vacation.”

How Free Trade Boosts Illinois (Chicago Tribune - IL)

August 25, 2007

“Globalization is contributing to a lot of paychecks in Illinois. President Bill Clinton once persuaded the Democratic Party to recognize that, and to take a modern, aggressive view of the benefits of the global economy and international trade. But Democrats have retreated to their old, protectionist tendencies. That's bad news for Illinois workers.”

Counter Chavez's Mischief (Orlando Sentinel - FL)

August 26, 2007

“What is important now for the U.S. is to establish a strong network of friends in the region to counter Mr. Chavez's growing influence....That's another reason why the U.S. should secure pending free-trade deals with Panama, Peru and Colombia....Strengthening ties between the U.S. and these three countries will boost their economies and provide a strong ideological influence to counter the power play in Venezuela.”

The Doors To South Korea (San Francisco Chronicle - CA)

August 28, 2007

“The United States has dropped to third among South Korea's trading partners, falling behind China and Japan. While no free-trade deal is without pain, this one certainly improves the status quo by breaking down barriers to South Korea's trillion-dollar economy.”

W.Va. Benefits From Free Trade (Charleston Daily Mail - WV)

September 3, 2007

“West Virginians like the fact that their little piece of heaven is a welcome respite from a busy world. But make no mistake. West Virginia is thoroughly enmeshed in a booming global trade, and its fortunes are increasingly linked to expanded trade opportunities....Economies are dynamic. Things change. The truth is, the state will benefit more from free trade than it could ever preserve with protectionist measures.”

Putting Trade Ahead Of Politics (The Birmingham News – AL)

September 04, 2007

“The four trade agreements would open more markets and customers in these countries to U.S. businesses, which already trade with them. The new agreements would remove or lower many of the punishing tariffs that have limited exports to those countries....Unfortunately, politically fueled - and misguided - protectionism may carry the day....Inaction by the Congress this year would be a shame for the country and for Alabama. Foreign trade is important to this state and could become even more so with trade pacts with the four countries....Even as they open and expand markets, they will lift up the poor by creating more good-paying (by their standards) jobs in Colombia, Panama, Peru and South Korea.”

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| OP-EDs |
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Focusing On Jobs Lost To Trade Is Big Mistake (Bloomberg)

August 6, 2007; By John M. Berry

“In an article in the March/April 2006 issue of Foreign Affairs magazine, Blinder wrote, ‘Thinking about adjustment assistance more broadly, the United States may have to repair and thicken the tattered safety net that supports workers who fall off the labor-market trapeze -- improving programs ranging from unemployment insurance to job retraining, health insurance, pension and right down to public assistance.’”

“...That's an ambitious list. It's what Congress should be thinking about instead of focusing on the loss of jobs somehow linked to trade. That focus, instead of making the public more willing to accept an economy open to the rest of the world, reinforces the notion that trade means losses

rather than gains....It's time to focus on the gains and deal with the damage done to individuals who lose jobs regardless of the reason.”

The Real Uribe Record (Wall Street Journal)

August 6, 2007; By Mary Anastasia O’Grady

“In the Democrats' book, the way to make Colombia more just is to deny it the chance to deepen its commercial relations with the U.S....If the party's leadership sustains this view, the outcome will not only harm Colombia but will badly damage U.S. interests in the region.”

Protectionist Fever Adds To Market Turmoil (Kansas City Star - KS)

August 11, 2007; By E. Thomas McClanahan

“Today, the congressional attitude toward trade is the most hostile I can recall in more than 20 years of following the issue. Rising protectionism — voiced by members of both parties — is contributing to the anxiety in the financial markets over the past two weeks.”

A Trade Barrier To Progress (National Review Online)

August 12, 2007; By Michael T. Darda

“Attention protectionist stooges: Since the implementation of NAFTA in 1994, real non-supervisory wages have grown at an average pace of 1.2 percent per annum, triple the 1971-2007 average of 0.4 percent per annum. Inflation-adjusted household net worth has jumped \$22.2 trillion since NAFTA was implemented while non-farm payrolls have increased by 24.9 million. Manufacturing output, far from falling, actually stands at a record high, and is up 62 percent since 1994....While the global boom continues on the back of pro-growth policies around the world, Congress is speeding down the road to ruin with trade protectionism and a raft of untimely tax hikes.”

FTA, FYI: Trading In The Past. (National Review Online)

August 13, 2007; By Michael Barone

“As you learn in Economics 101, or in Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations if you want to go back farther, free trade benefits workers and consumers in both countries. Freer trade accounts for billions in improvement of the standards of living in the United States....Approving these FTAs would open up fairly large markets to us.”

Congress Should OK Trade Pact With S. Korea (San Jose Mercury News - CA)

August 14, 2007; By Alan K. Simpson

“South Korea and the United States have much to offer each other. South Korea is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and has the 12th-largest gross domestic products in the world. The nation is already our seventh-largest trading partner, and the passage of the agreement will substantially expand U.S. access into the vibrant and modern South Korean

economy....With strong protections for U.S. intellectual property rights, strong provisions pushing for greater transparency in South Korean markets, the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to many U.S. exports and investment, and legal protection against unfair expropriation, the agreement is a guarantee of economic opportunity for many American sectors.”

Peru Long-Term Relief (AgWeb)

August 23, 2007; Dean Kleckner

“The bottom line is that the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement would increase the ability of Americans and Peruvians to exchange goods and services with each other. The only losers would be tariff collectors and economic isolationists, of which the U.S. has plenty.”

Trade Fears Are All Smoke (Chicago Tribune - IL)

August 28, 2007, By Daniel Ikenson

“When Congress reconvenes, committee leaders are expected to begin marking up some of the nearly two dozen pieces of pending trade-related legislation....Most of those bills are antagonistic toward our trade partners or outright protectionist, inspired in large measure by the myth of American manufacturing decline....But U.S. manufacturing is not in decline; it is thriving....And not only is manufacturing thriving. It is thriving in large measure because of international trade. Manufacturing exports and imports hit records in 2006.”

Do Not Let Detroit Derail This Fair Trade Agreement (Financial Times - UK)

September 7, 2007; By Bruce Klingner

“The FTA would also strengthen bilateral ties by broadening the US-South Korean relationship beyond the military alliance, help retain US influence in the region and counter Seoul's economic shift towards China....No FTA can guarantee higher sales. It can merely provide balanced economic rules of engagement. This FTA would enable companies from both countries to engage in the intense competition of free and fair trade on a more level playing field.”

ARTICLES

Peru Visit Sparking Interest In Early Markup For Trade Pact (Congress Daily PM)

August 7, 2007; By Martin Vaughan

“House Ways and Means Chairman Rangel is indicating his panel will move ahead with the U.S.-Peru free trade agreement shortly after returning from recess, as Bush administration officials prodded Rangel to complete committee action on the pact in September. Rangel said action on the trade agreement was a "priority" for Congress this fall after meeting Monday with Peruvian President Alan Garcia in Lima, according to wire reports.”

Schwab And Paulson Urge Rangel To Take Up Peru FTA In September (BNA)

August 8, 2007; By Rossella Brevetti

“U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Aug. 7 wrote to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) expressing the hope that the pending U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement be reported out of his committee in September.”

Rangel Identifies Peru FTA As A Top Priority In September (BNA)

August 9, 2007

“Our visit with President Garcia and members of the Peruvian government marked the beginning of a new way forward on international trade,’ Rangel said in a press statement.”

“...Rangel said he was ‘extremely pleased’ to see Garcia express ‘overwhelming support’ for the labor and environmental changes in the trade agreement. ‘I look forward to making the U.S.-Peru FTA a top priority for the Committee and the Congress when we return in September,’ Rangel said.”

Free Trade Key To Pa. Growth (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review – PA)

August 10, 2007; By Rick Stouffer

“ ‘These agreements will be good for us,’ said Gutierrez, speaking to a jammed auditorium at Heinz’s Global Innovation and Quality Center in Marshall. ‘At a time when free trade is not perceived as positive, 95 percent of the world’s consumers are outside the United States. We can’t be provincial.’”

“...Gutierrez added that trade is vitally important to Pennsylvania, quoting figures that the state annually exports \$26 billion in goods, making it the 10th-largest exporting state.”

U.S. Official Promotes Free Trade Agreements (The Oregonian - OR)

August 10, 2007; By Richard Read

“U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab swept through town on a campaign-style swing promoting free trade.”

Trade A Hard Sell, Top Envoy Tells State Group (Seattle Times - WA)

August 11, 2007; By Kristi Heim

“‘Trade is becoming a hard sell in the other Washington,’ Schwab said Friday, addressing the Washington Council on International Trade.... ‘It would be a disaster for U.S. position in the world, a truly unprecedented and negative outcome if we didn’t get approval of these agreements,’ she said.”

U.S. Action On Free Trade Is Left Hanging (Los Angeles Times - CA)

August 20, 2007; By Peter G. Gosselin

“Congress is finding ways to check globalization. But some experts say such protectionist measures are detrimental to U.S. workers.”

US-Latin Trade Slows Down (Latin Business Chronicle)

August 20, 2007

“U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez says U.S. exports will get a boost if the U.S. Congress approves pending free trade agreements with Latin American and Asian countries. ‘President Bush is committed to helping Americans benefit from the world economy,’ he said in a statement last week. ‘The best thing Congress can do this year to help attain that goal is to pass the pending Free Trade Agreements with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and Korea. The overwhelming majority of these countries’ exports already enter the United States duty free while U.S. exports to these countries face significant tariffs. These four FTAs will level the playing field and open new export opportunities for American businesses, workers, farmers and ranchers.’”

Commerce Official Stumps For Trade Agreements (The Daily Inter Lake - MT)

August 26, 2007; By Nancy Kimball

“For the 620 Montana companies who exported goods in 2005, lowering trade barriers and opening new markets could make a huge impact.... ‘My first goal is job creation,’ Bohigian told the group. Since August 2003, U.S. business and industry have created more than 8 million jobs, ‘more than the rest of industrialized nations combined.’”

“....A big driver in that, he said, is global trade expansion....Domestic policies are the fulcrum in trade expansion, with three-quarters of the nation’s trade growth credited to domestic growth. It brings not only new customers, he said, but new global competitors.”

Bush Trade Team Enlists Local Officials For Help Winning Trade Deals In Congress (Bulletin News)

August 28, 2007

“All elements of the Bush trade team have spent a busy August on an unusual campaign to enlist local lawmakers, mayors and governors to help the administration win support for pending free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, South Korea and Panama....In visits to major cities, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab and top officials from the White House, Commerce, Treasury, State and Agriculture have wooed elected officials, editorial writers and corporate executives as the administration prepares for what many believe will be a tough – but successful – fight for the free trade deals this fall. So far, say officials, the administration has seen some major successes....Trade and commerce officials hope that the endorsement by newspapers and local officials will help them to reduce the opposition as House and Senate foes feel pressure

from their constituents and locally-elected officials. 'We are trying to isolate the opponents,' said an administration official."

White House Holding Out For Colombia (Congress Daily AM)

September 6, 2007; By Martin Vaughan

"Baucus said committee trade staff that traveled to Colombia during the August recess were 'very impressed' by the country's progress on combating violence and improving labor rights. 'I'd like to find a way to do it, respecting the concerns some senators have,' Baucus said of the trade pact."