
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

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U.S. Chamber Welcomes Step Forward on Trade Agreements

Donohue Calls it a 'Moment of Truth' for Congress, Urges Lawmakers to Move Trade Agenda Forward

Today's news that the Senate Finance Committee will hold a "mock" markup for the pending trade agreements and other trade programs was welcomed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"With our economic recovery stalling, the time is now for Congress to act on these deals," said Thomas J. Donohue, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber. "We simply cannot afford to put American jobs at risk any longer."

"American workers and farmers waited more than four years for the trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama, and the lapse in key trade programs has also caused hardship," he said

On Friday, the European Union-Korea Free Trade Agreement will enter into force, and the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will do so six weeks later, putting American workers and farmers at a competitive disadvantage. A [U.S. Chamber study](#) warned that continued delay by Washington has put 380,000 American jobs at risk.

"In addition to broad support in Congress for the pending trade agreements, there has historically been bipartisan support for Trade Adjustment Assistance, the Generalized System of Preferences, and the Andean Trade Preference Act," Donohue said. "Likewise, the Chamber continues to support all three of these programs."

"For members of Congress who care about American jobs, this is a moment of truth," said Donohue. "I urge members of both parties to seize a reasonable compromise and move the trade agenda forward. The time to act is now."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.

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