

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to urge you to take an important step towards expanding markets and creating American jobs by supporting approval of the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. As you know, one key to economic improvement at home is expanding our markets abroad. Your Administration's target of doubling U.S. exports in the next five years is an ambitious and worthy goal.

With 95 percent of the world's consumers living outside the United States, our future economic growth and job creation depend on expanding exports. Under the trade preferences we provide to developing countries, most Colombian goods currently enter the United States duty-free, but U.S. products pay full duty into the Colombian market. The Agreement would finally permit duty-free access for U.S. exports of goods and services. In fact, virtually every economic study has come to the conclusion that the United States will benefit economically from the Agreement.

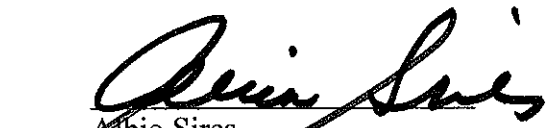
The longer we wait to approve the Agreement, signed over three years ago, the more we stand to lose. Already, U.S. companies have been forced to pay an estimated \$2.7 billion in unnecessary duties on exports of American made products to Colombia because of the delay in implementing the Agreement. These duties put American workers at a competitive disadvantage. Also, as Colombia moves forward with other trade agreements, we will see the Agreement's benefits to U.S. exporters diminished. Colombian free trade negotiations with Canada and the European Union have been concluded, and additional agreements are soon to come. Clearly, further delay risks sacrificing the entire Colombian market to U.S. competitors.

Of equal significance is the impact of the Agreement on our national security. Colombia has been a valuable ally to the United States, and we believe strengthening our economic ties with Colombia will help ensure the country continues on the path of reform, stability and friendship in an increasingly volatile region. As partners in combating drug trafficking and fighting terrorism, our bilateral efforts have made significant progress during the past decade. Indeed, Colombia has made remarkable progress on many fronts, emerging as an important growth market and a leading center for Latin American business. In a region that has seen a disturbing increase in hostility to U.S. interests and values, Colombia has consistently proven itself to be an important friend, a reliable partner and a bulwark for democracy.

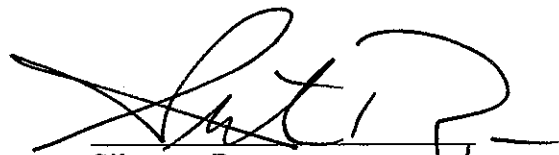
As you know, in August of this year, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe will end his second term and turn over office to a newly elected president. This peaceful and orderly transition will continue Colombia's democratic tradition as Latin America's oldest democracy. We believe the passage of the Agreement before August would be a fitting way to recognize our partnership and our commitment to common goals of democracy, sustainable development, and security.

For the benefit of our economy and our national security, we urge you to resolve any outstanding obstacles to the U.S-Colombian Trade Promotion Agreement, submit the agreement to Congress, and support its prompt approval. We believe the implementing legislation will have strong, bipartisan support in Congress, and we stand ready to work with you to ensure its passage.

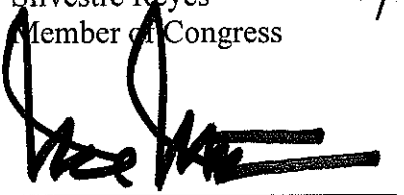
Sincerely,



Albio Sires
Member of Congress

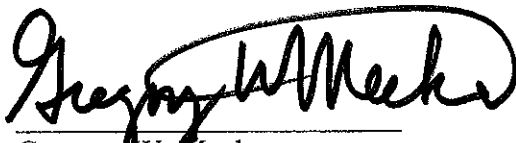


Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



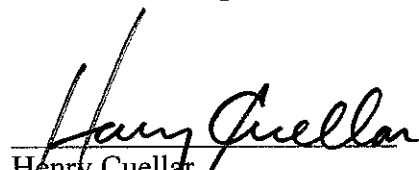
Ike Skelton
Member of Congress

Ike Skelton
Member of Congress




Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress



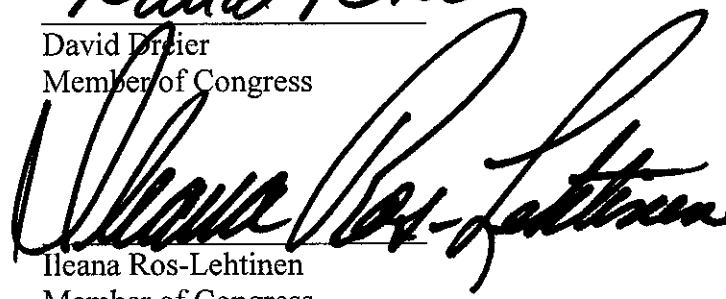
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress



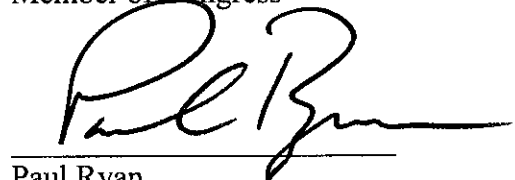
David Drier
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress



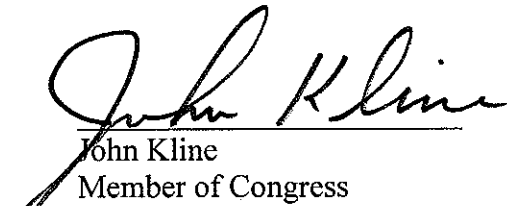
Heana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress



Paul Ryan
Member of Congress

Paul Ryan
Member of Congress



John Kline
Member of Congress

John Kline
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady
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Norm Dicks

Norman D. Dicks
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Rubin Hinojosa

Rubén Hinojosa
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Brian Baird

Brian Baird
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Solomon P. Ortiz

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Vic Snyder

Vic Snyder
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Ron Kind

Ron Kind
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Jared Polis

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Wally Herger

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Kevin McCarthy

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Connie Mack

Connie Mack
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Charles W. Boustany, Jr.

Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
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Vern Buchanan

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Sam Graves

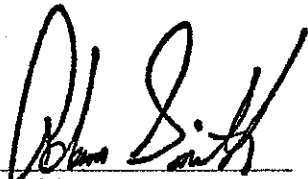
Sam Graves
Member of Congress

Devin Nunes

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

Michael K. Conaway

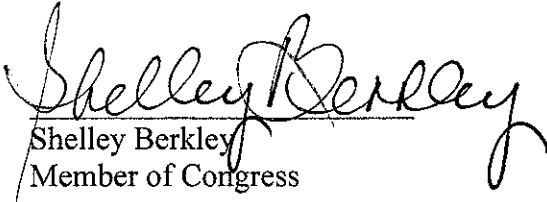
Michael K. Conaway
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



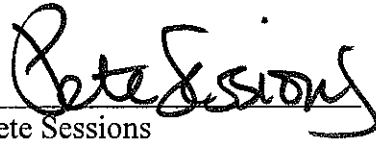
Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



David G. Reichert
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



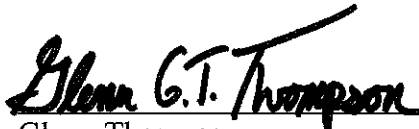
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Geoff Davis
Member of Congress



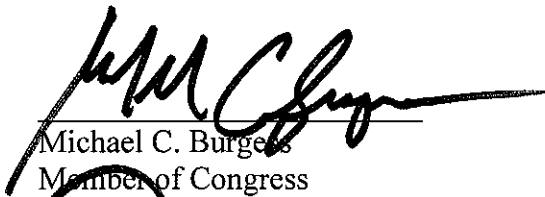
Anh "Joseph" Cao
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



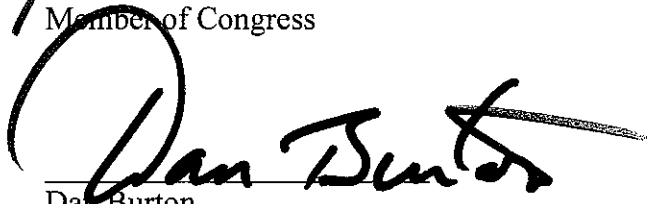
Judy Biggert
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Dan Burton
Member of Congress