

What They're Saying:

"A Great Nation Does Not Fear Trade"

With Congress Back In Session, "Lawmakers Should Immediately Pass The Colombian Trade Agreement"

"We need to work together to open up markets for American goods. Exports account for a greater share of America's gross domestic product than at any time in our history. It is not too late for Congress to approve free trade agreements with strong allies like Colombia, Panama, and South Korea — so that we can make more opportunities for American farmers, ranchers, and entrepreneurs."

– President George W. Bush, 8/30/08

Newspapers: "During The Past Four Quarters, Trade Has Accounted For More Than Half Of The Growth In The U.S. Economy"

The Wall Street Journal: "[T]he Democrats of the past several years have shown themselves to be less a party of ideas than a vessel for special interests. Exhibit A: the Colombia Free Trade Agreement." "The AFL-CIO, however, has commanded that no vote can occur on Colombia, and so Democrats have obeyed and the trade deal languishes, frustrating and perhaps embittering a foreign friend of the U.S." (Editorial, "The Denver Democrats," *The Wall Street Journal*, 8/25/08)

Investor's Business Daily: "[Jimmy Carter] urged Congress to pass the free-trade pact with Colombia. Fellow Democrats should take heed." "Big Labor's cash controls the Democrat-led Congress, leaving many Democrats cowed on free trade. So, there's probably little political gain for Carter to support free trade." (Editorial, "Kudos For Carter," *Investor's Business Daily*, 8/20/08)

The Orlando Sentinel: "Economists are giving much of the credit for last quarter's unexpectedly robust growth to a surge in U.S. exports." "The gains go back further; during the past four quarters, trade has accounted for more than half of the growth in the U.S. economy. ... The Colombia and Panama agreements also would promote more economic and political reform in the two countries and strengthen relations at a time when Washington needs good friends in Latin America." (Editorial, "With Exports A Bright Spot In The Economy, Congress Should Approve 3 Agreements," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 9/8/08)

The Paducah [KY] Sun's David Cox: "Congress should set politics aside, do its duty and approve the agreement." "The trade agreement would actually create jobs by making it cheaper for U.S. companies to sell their goods in Colombia." (David Cox, Op-Ed, "Duty Free: Congress Should Pass Colombia Trade Pact," *The Paducah [KY] Sun*, 8/9/08)

Corpus Christi [TX] Caller-Times: "The case for the Colombia free trade agreement is blatantly one-sided, in our favor." "The president is right on this one: Approving the agreement would bring economic benefits to this country and support an important Latin American ally." (Editorial, "Bush Urges Congress To OK Colombia Trade Pact," *Corpus Christi [TX] Caller-Times*, 7/27/08)

Commentators: "The Bipartisan Policy Of Trade Expansion Has Served America's Broader Interests For The Past Half Century"

The Wall Street Journal's Mary Anastasia O'Grady: "The last time Washington adopted a protectionist stance toward our southern neighbors was in 1930, when Congress passed the Smoot-Hawley tariffs." "It took more than 50 years to even begin to climb out of that hole. Many economists blame Smoot-Hawley for the depths of the U.S. depression." (Mary Anastasia O'Grady, Op-Ed, "Latin America Wants Free Trade," *The Wall Street Journal*, 9/9/08)

Bloomberg's Kevin Hassett: "[W]e now have trade deals with Panama, Colombia and South Korea that are ready for passage but are being held up by Democrats for purely political reasons." "U.S. companies are paying millions of

dollars in tariffs every day to the Colombian Treasury because of congressional obstructionism on trade." (Kevin Hassett, Op-Ed, "Democratic Storyline Can't Survive The Debates," *Bloomberg News*, 9/8/08)

Bloomberg's Amity Shlaes: "Today, international trade claims a sizable share of our economy." "Bilateral free-trade agreements with Colombia or Panama are good insurance – cheap steps that might prevent an expensive loss, that of the Western Hemisphere to Venezuela's Hugo Chávez. Yet again, one party – the Democrats, this time – is cavalier. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is blocking passage of these bilateral agreements." (Amity Shlaes, Op-Ed, "Five Ways To Wreck A Recovery," *The Washington Post*, 8/18/08)

Hudson Institute Center for Latin American Studies Director Jaime Darembaum: "It is utterly shameful that Democratic House leaders have refused to schedule a vote on the U.S.-Colombia free trade deal." "If U.S. lawmakers understood how their rebuke of Colombia was hurting America's image in the region, one hopes they would reconsider and approve the trade pact immediately." (Jaime Darembaum, Op-Ed, "Venezuela's Weak Strongman," *The Weekly Standard*, 8/20/08)

Committee On The Present Danger Vice President Lawrence Haas: "With the lines drawn starkly, President Bush has gotten it mostly right in our own hemisphere." "He has sought to build stronger ties with our friends, notably Colombia, and to contain the ambitions of our adversaries. The results have been dramatic. ... Colombia's gain is our gain – it shows hundreds of millions of people south of our border that freedom, democracy, and the rule of law help improve living standards." (Lawrence Haas, Op-Ed, "Continue Bush's Policies," *The Daily Press* [VA], 8/19/08)

Cato Institute Center For Trade Policy Director Daniel Griswold: "The bipartisan policy of trade expansion has served America's broader interests for the past half century." "Democrats like to point to the economic boom of the 1990s while rejecting the Clinton trade agenda that helped to fuel that growth." (Daniel Griswold, Op-Ed, "Expanding Trade Is A Key To Winning Presidency," *The Detroit News*, 7/30/08)

Business Leaders: "There Is No Doubt That Booming Exports Have Been A Major Source Of Support For The Economy"

Consumer Electronics Association President and CEO Gary Shapiro: "[R]ank-and-file Democrats understand the importance of trade and free markets to our economic future." "Congress appears out of touch with the American voter. When Congress returns to Washington after the conventions, lawmakers should immediately pass the Colombian trade agreement and demonstrate to the world that as a great nation, the United States does not fear overseas competition." (Consumer Electronics Association, "Most Democrats Believe They Benefit From Trade, New CEA Poll Shows," Press Release, 8/25/08)

- **"A great nation does not fear trade."** "American workers can compete." (Kate Ackley, "Trade Advocates Find Friendly Turf," *Roll Call*, 9/3/08)

Naperville Area Chamber Of Commerce President and CEO Richard Greene: "We need our elected officials to work at enacting policies that help retain the competitiveness of American goods and jobs." "We need to keep them focused on keeping America competitive. We need Congress to act on items that strengthen our economy, such as the Colombia Free Trade Agreement." (Richard Greene, Op-Ed, "Embracing Global Economy Important For Future," *Naperville* [IL] *Sun*, 8/20/08)

Chevron President Ali Moshiri: "Chevron views free trade and free trade agreements, as extremely positive for countries throughout the world, including Colombia and the United States of America." "These agreements lower the cost of doing business and provide greater access to more goods and materials. ... Further, by enhancing US exports, it strengthens the currently most solid leg of a difficult domestic economy." ("Business Supports Colombia FTA," *Latin Business Chronicle*, 8/4/08)

SAP Colombia Managing Director Fernando Rubio: "The FTA in Colombia ...will allow the country to compete with practices of other countries." "It will bring more and better employment opportunities and the consequent poverty reduction." ("Business Supports Colombia FTA," *Latin Business Chronicle*, 8/4/08)

Ocean Breeze International's Rene Van Wingerden: "I think we should give [Colombians] free trade." "I think it would be better for Colombia but also society as a whole. I think we need a little help from our government to be competitive." (Wes Sander, "California Flower Growers Divided On Colombia Pact," *Capital Press* [OR], 8/18/08)

Kimber Kable President Ray Kimber: "Free trade is vital to any consumer electronics company, because all of the goods that are exported overseas, equal funds that come back to our economy, spur additional job growth and ultimately benefit the state as a whole." (Consumer Electronics Association, "America Wins With Trade' Tour Stops In Ogden, Utah At Kimber Kable," Press Release, 8/19/08)

Merrill Lynch Economist David Rosenberg: "[T]here is no doubt that booming exports have been a major source of support for the economy." (James Politi, "Weak Dollar Leads To US Import Gloom," *Financial Times*, 8/28/08)

Political Leaders: "Colombia's Is The Kind Of Success Story That The U.S. Congress Should Be Supporting, Not Undermining"

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT): "We in America are not reaching out aggressively enough to get trade agreements with other countries." "We need to reach out and make those agreements. We're treading water. We can no longer tread water." (Nancy Kimball, "Baucus: U.S. 'Treading Water' On Trade," *Daily Inter Lake* [MT], 8/14/08)

Senator John Cornyn (R-TX): "Free trade creates markets for our agricultural produce and our manufactured products in ways that create jobs right here at home, which is why I think it's so important that Congress take up and pass the Columbia Free Trade Agreement." (Leslie Wimmer, "Cornyn Discusses Energy, Trade At Fort Worth Stop," *Fort Worth* [TX] *Business Press*, 9/1/08)

Representatives David Dreier (R-CA): "The issue of trade has become tragically partisan." "I wish very much that the candidates on the Democratic side would have embraced Bill Clinton's view on trade." (Kate Ackley, "Trade Advocates Find Friendly Turf," *Roll Call*, 9/3/08)

Representative Gregory W. Meeks (D-NY): "I think it might be an appropriate time to go back to [Pelosi and Rangel] to see what we can do to get Colombia revived." (Gary G. Yerkey, "House Democrats To Urge Speaker Pelosi To Lift Hold On U.S.-Colombia Trade Pact," *Bureau Of National Affairs*, 8/26/08)

Ogden [UT] Mayor Matthew Godfrey: Free trade "creates more jobs and more products." "It also helps stabilize third-world countries. A stable third world would be good for the U.S." (Jeff Demoss, "Free-Trade Boosters Make Stop In Ogden," *The Ogden* [UT] *Standard Examiner*, 8/21/08)

Former U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky: "In the case of Colombia, it seems to me rather obvious." "This is a critical country. Not to pass the agreement, to repudiate it at this junction ... would do nothing to strengthen labor rights in Colombia. It would be Hugo Chavez's dream' for the deal not to pass." (Peter Cohn, "Former Clinton Trade Officials Call For Passage Of Deals," *Congress Daily*, 7/29/08)

Former Assistant Secretary Of State For The Western Hemisphere Otto Reich: "Colombia's is the kind of success story that the U.S. Congress should be supporting, not undermining." "Yet for partisan reasons, Democrats have blocked a vote on a top foreign- and economic-policy priority of both governments: the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Because the agreement is so clearly beneficial to both nations, Democratic leaders in Congress have had to invent bogus excuses for preventing a vote." (Otto Reich, Op-Ed, "Uribe To The Rescue," *National Review*, 8/18/08)