

Strong Support for the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement and the U.S. Free Trade Agenda

Manufactured goods make up two-thirds of America's exports, and every new trade agreement we pass ensures increased market access and job creation for America's manufacturers. The strong bipartisan support for this vote today shows that Congress is fully aware of the economic benefits of free and open trade. Having taken this important step today toward leveling the playing field for U.S. exports, I urge members of the Senate to stand with the more than 6,000 American manufacturers that export to Peru and ratify this agreement without delay.

- **Jay Timmons, Senior Vice President for Policy,
National Association of Manufacturers**

It is through trade and economic development that Latin American countries will generate employment, ameliorate poverty, control migration, increase wealth, and strengthen the democratic institutions through which our countries can be better allies. The USHCC is pleased with the approval of this trade agreement and we encourage the Congressional leadership to schedule and pass the upcoming Panama and Colombia agreements as well.

-- **David C. Lizárraga, Chairman of the Board, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

We applaud the leadership roles of Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Rangel, Ranking Member McCrery, Representatives Levin and Herger, and Ambassador Schwab in achieving bipartisan support for this important agreement. Its benefits to our industry's workers and to the U.S. economy are clear.

-- **Audrae Erickson, President, Corn Refiners Association**

A new bipartisan agreement made it possible to approve the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, and those commitments have been included in the trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Korea. The Chamber is committed to working with the Congress to see these three vital agreements approved as soon as possible.

- **Thomas Donohue, President and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

The American Apparel & Footwear Association has worked tirelessly on these issues and we aren't ready to rest yet. Not until every member of Congress understands the many benefits for the U.S. textile and apparel industries created by the Andean Trade Preference Act, and the vital need to make these benefits permanent through the U.S./ Peru TPA and U.S./ Colombia TPA.

-- **Kevin M. Burke, President and CEO, American Apparel & Footwear Association**

This is a critical step toward passage of a trade deal that is of vital importance to U.S. pork producers. Now we need the Senate to quickly pass the PTPA. The sooner the Senate passes the agreement, the sooner the U.S. and Peruvian governments can implement the deal, which will generate new exports that flow directly to the bottom line of our producers. The Peru agreement is the first of four pending free trade pacts to see congressional action. Also awaiting consideration are deals with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. As we push for Senate approval of the Peru agreement, we'll also be asking Congress for a vote early next year on the Colombia agreement, which would add \$1.63 to the price producers received for each hog they market.

-- **Jill Appell, President, National Pork Producers Council**

The simple fact is that free trade agreements work, said Washington Director for Government Affairs with Caterpillar and co-chair for the Latin America Trade Coalition. They not only increase economic growth, but raise living standards in both countries as consumers have more choices at lower prices. This vote is a great step toward restoring the bipartisan consensus on trade, and we congratulate the leadership of both parties for their hard work.

-- Bill Lane, Caterpillar, Co-Chair, Latin America Trade Coalition

These FTAs are vital to the US economy, as the service sector accounts for nearly 80% of US private sector GDP, and employs 77% of the American workforce. The US is the world's largest and most competitive service exporter, with service exports reaching \$404.3 billion last year and a trade surplus of \$96.5 billion. A large majority of the workforce in every Congressional district is employed in services. CSI looks forward to working with Congress to ensure equal support and passage of the three outstanding agreements with Colombia, Panama and Korea.

-- Coalition of Service Industries

Today's approval of legislation to implement the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement by the U.S. House is an important step forward for the trade agenda. We also urge support for the approval of pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, as well as the renewal of the President's trade promotion authority, on which continued active engagement by the United States in the Doha Round of trade negotiations depends.

-- Rob Nichols, President and COO, Financial Services Forum

This trade agreement succeeds in promoting competition, which is good for consumers here and abroad and good for a strong, vibrant pharmaceutical industry.

-- Kathleen Jaeger, President and CEO, Generic Pharmaceutical Association

AeA applauds the determination and dedicated efforts of the House leadership in working with the Administration on key issues that rebuilt bipartisan support for trade and the US-Peru FTA. We encourage the House leadership to continue this positive trend by supporting the free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and Korea, which will further expand opportunities for AeA member companies exporting or planning to export to these countries.

-- Rob Mulligan, Senior Vice President International, American Electronics Association

Passage of the Peru TPA demonstrates that the House understands that America cannot sit quietly on the sidelines of the international economy while overseas competitors accumulate trade agreements which give their exporters an edge over U.S. businesses, workers and farmers.

- John J. Castellani, President, Business Roundtable

The Peru Trade Promotion Agreement will resolve current trade imbalances and break through barriers that have made it extremely difficult for U.S. agricultural products to compete in that country. We appreciate the efforts of Chairman Rangel and other House leaders for their work to pass this agreement, but the achievement should not end here. U.S. agriculture's support goes beyond the Peru agreement to include support of pending trade agreements with Colombia and Panama. Members of the House of Representative must not stop here. We urge them to bring up the remaining two Latin agreements for votes as soon as possible.

-- Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

This agreement propels our nation toward the critically important goal of international market access for cutting edge CE products by eliminating harmful tariffs, and setting into place trade rules that increase transparency, and assist the fight against counterfeit goods. We urge Congress to continue this positive momentum by acting swiftly to approve the pending trade promotion agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea.

- ***Michael Petricone, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs,
Consumer Electronics Association***

This agreement will provide improved market access for U.S. manufactured goods, offer new opportunities to the services sector, including financial services providers, and open up Peru's market to American agricultural exports."

-- ***Peter M. Robinson, President, United States Council for International Business***

Passage of this agreement sends a signal to our trading partners around the world that we won't abandon our strategic partners and that the United States is committed to eliminating barriers to trade. We now urge the U.S. Senate to quickly follow suit and pass this agreement. We also encourage Congress to consider the pending agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea in the near future.

-- ***Stephanie Lester, Vice President for International Trade, Retail Industry Leaders Association***

The U.S.-Peru trade agreement is not only important for both countries, it is an extremely important building block in the effort to expand the nation's capacity to export goods and services all over the world, which in turn and inescapably benefits American workers and families. This trade agreement will provide for more transparent regulation thereby presenting more opportunity for U.S. insurers to enter emerging markets outside our borders. While AIA applauds today's action in the House, we also hope that this vote will establish momentum for the passage of three other pending free trade agreements - Panama, Colombia and Korea - which are also very important to both the insurance industry and the U.S. economy as a whole.

-- ***Marc Racicot, President, American Insurance Association***

Congressional approval of the PTPA will show our trading partners in Peru and the rest of the region that the United States values our commercial relations with Latin America. Following final action on Peru, we look forward to timely consideration of the Colombia, Panama and South Korea FTAs.

- ***Mary Irace, Vice President for Trade and Export, National Foreign Trade Council***

All reputable economists agree that free trade promotes global economic growth and it is reassuring to see a majority of representatives choosing economic rationality over protectionist demagoguery. We urge the Senate to speedily approve the trade agreement with Peru and for both the House and Senate to move quickly on pending trade agreements with Panama, Columbia, and South Korea.

-- ***Pat Toomey, President, Club for Growth***

The agreement will prove a boon for democracy and security in Latin America. It will lend valuable support for the rule of law, protect investment, strengthen adherence to internationally recognized workers rights, and foster transparency and accountability in business and government. Moreover, the agreement will enhance opportunities for economic development in Peru as the country recovers from the recent earthquake.

**- Mickey Peters, Chairman,
Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America**

This is a victory for manufacturing and high-tech jobs and businesses, both large and small. The benefits for will have an important and lasting positive impact on the economies and people of both nations. There are currently three more free trade agreements before Congress; deals with Panama, Colombia and South Korea are now awaiting hearings and votes. We cannot rest on the success of today, there is much more to be done. The strong support for the US –Peru free trade agreement is acknowledgement of the positive mutual impact of such agreements. I urge all Members of Congress who supported this measure to apply the intellectual honesty they have shown here to the remaining agreements and act quickly so the benefits of those deals can be felt as quickly as possible.

-- Grover Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform

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