



Promoting Free Trade



Representing Washington's Eighth Congressional District

<http://reichert.house.gov>

From top left: Reichert with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab in Colombia in April 2008, Reichert at the Port of Seattle, Reichert meeting with Korean Ambassador Lee Tai-Sik, Reichert at a flower farm near Medellin, Colombia.



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“Dave is a tireless supporter and committed advocate for trade legislation, one whom we have counted on to consistently voice his support in floor debates and work behind the scenes to generate key votes from both sides of the aisle.”

~ Rep. David Dreier, on Dave Reichert, Member of the House Trade Working Group. Dreier (R-CA) is Chairman of the House Trade Working Group.



Congressman David Dreier

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CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT
REPRESENTING WASHINGTON'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT

REPRESENTING WASHINGTON'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

PROMOTING FREE TRADE

- Committed to advancing the trade measures needed to grow our economy, create jobs, and improve strategic relations with global partners.
- Supports swift passage of pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Korea. These agreements have the potential to bring billions of dollars and thousands of new jobs to Washington State's economy.
- Repeatedly sought to unite WA congressional delegation to help bring pending free trade agreements to the floor for votes.
- Supported trade agreements with Central America (CAFTA), Oman, Bahrain, and Peru.
- Supports the renewal of Trade Promotion Authority, which gives our trade representatives the flexibility needed to broker deals that benefit American businesses, employees, and consumers while strengthening our foreign partnerships.
- Supported additional funding for Trade Adjustment Assistance, which helps workers whose jobs were displaced or hours reduced by increased imports.
- Member of the Trade Working Group, a House coalition led by Congressmen David Dreier (CA-26) and Jim McCrery (LA-4), to build support for pro-growth, pro-jobs trade initiatives.
- Met with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Korean Ambassador Lee Tae-Sik to promote trade agreements that benefit Washington State.
- Participated in a congressional delegation visit to Colombia with U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab to meet with President Alvaro Uribe, disarmed paramilitary combatants, and Colombian labor unions to help advance the Colombia FTA.

FREE TRADE: A NORTHWEST IMPERATIVE

“[Free Trade Agreements are]... worth supporting by the people of Washington, who rely on international trade more than people in any other state.”

The Seattle Times

August 15, 2007

“Washington a winner in Korean trade deal”

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Andrea James, September 19, 2007

“Instead of bashing international trade, [candidates] should be touting its contribution to shoring up a souring economy.”

The Seattle Times

April 3, 2008

“Time for candidates to talk trade”

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Joel Connelly, July 3, 2008

“This is a trading place whose most beloved tourist attraction is a market. Seattle was built to look outward to Asia, and it does.”

The Seattle Times

January 14, 2008

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

The Seattle Times

April 15, 2007

The Seattle Times

April 10, 2008

Pass the Colombia trade pact

BY DAVE REICHERT
Special to The Times

AFTER eighteen months of bipartisan negotiations, the Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was submitted to Congress this week. In this time of economic uncertainty, it is more important than ever to enact measures that grow our economy and create jobs for American workers. The Colombia FTA does this and more, and deserves broad support and swift passage in Congress.

I'm an ardent supporter of free and fair trade, first and foremost because I have witnessed the economic benefits that trade delivers to Washington state. Washington is one of the most trade-dependent states in the nation, with one out of three jobs tied to trade. We export more than \$61 billion in goods and services annually.

Knowing some of my constituents are concerned about this FTA, I wanted to examine the situation firsthand and determine what must be done to benefit as many people as possible. This past weekend, I traveled to Colombia with U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab and members from both parties to investigate.

I met with disarmed paramilitaries and displaced workers who believe the FTA will improve their quality of life by cementing access to U.S. markets. I met with union leaders in Cartagena who oppose the FTA, and union leaders in Medellín who support it. I spoke with President Alvaro Uribe about how the FTA will affect his country's security, safety and freedom, his relations with Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, and efforts to stop the illegal drug trade.

My visit confirmed the critical importance of enacting this agreement for three key reasons.

First, the FTA will open new mar-

kets for American businesses and farmers while bringing fairness to our existing trade relationship. Virtually all of Colombian goods enter America duty-free, while American goods face tariffs. With so many jobs tied to trade in Washington, common sense says we must level the playing field.

Particularly interesting is the extent of Colombian labor support for the agreement. The labor leaders opposing the FTA represent workers unaffected by trade, and their responses in our meetings lacked specifics. Their arguments were clearly based in the fear that the near-certain success of the FTA will bring widespread acclaim to their political opponents in the Colombian government, even with a president who has an 84 percent approval rating, and simply because they distrust the United States.

Second, the FTA will support democracy in an unstable region. It's imperative for Americans to view free-trade agreements not just as a mutual economic benefit, but also as a core component of our country's diplomacy and security. Colombia stands tall as a beacon of democracy in the face of Chávez's anti-American policies and is a staunch ally in efforts to combat the drug trade.

Incidentally, almost 50 percent of Colombia is rain forest, and the biggest enemies of the rain forest there are cocaine producers, who cut down trees to grow their crops for the drug trade. By stopping them, we have an indirect but positive effect on our environment.

The nation continues its remarkable transformation, with judicial reforms that support human rights while fighting drug lords, terrorists, and criminals. Since 2002, kidnappings are down 83 percent, murders of union-

ists are down more than 80 percent, and thousands of new policemen patrol the streets.

On my visit, I met with displaced workers driven from their homes by fear and death; who had lost loved ones to war and terrorism. They said they wanted to work to improve their lives and the future for their children. They now have access to education that no poor Colombian had before. It's clear the Colombian people and government are making progress, but they still look to the United States for leadership and help. Walking away from an ally would send a terrible message.

Third, enacting the Colombia FTA on the heels of our recent agreement with Peru will enable Congress to advance other pending trade deals, most notably with Korea, Washington state's fourth-largest trading partner. Passing the U.S.-Korea FTA is vital to our economic growth and job creation. Rejecting trade agreements sends a signal that America is closed for business and emboldens China and Europe to exploit those markets.

I challenge opponents of the Colombia FTA to conduct their own investigation, because I believe that engaging in true fact-gathering — instead of an exchange of partisan talking points — would lead them to enthusiastically support this agreement. The Colombia FTA has been negotiated time and again to accede to political gamesmanship, and it has languished long enough. Let's pass the Colombia FTA.



U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert, R-Auburn, represents the 8th Congressional District.

Reichert Travels to Colombia, Stresses Importance of Free Trade Pact

Washington, D.C., April 7, 2008 – Congressman Dave Reichert (WA-08) returned late Sunday evening from Colombia even more convinced that we need to pass a Free Trade Agreement with the South American country. Reichert was part of a bipartisan congressional delegation led by U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Susan Schwab that visited the country to gather facts about the pending trade agreement between the United States and Colombia.

Reichert and members of the delegation held meetings with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, the country's Attorney General, former guerilla combatants that have been demobilized, members of the business community, displaced workers, and leaders of labor unions who support the agreement, as well as labor leaders who oppose it.

"In this time of economic uncertainty, it is more important than ever to enact measures that grow our economy and create jobs for American workers," said Reichert. "This trip gave me a firsthand look at what's at stake in the Colombia Free Trade Agreement, and I am convinced that it deserves broad support and swift passage in Congress. Colombia is a success story. They have made tremendous strides in the security of their nation and are on the cusp of solving problems that previously seemed insurmountable. Furthermore, trade is absolutely essential to Washington State's economy; we cannot afford to reject this carefully negotiated agreement and signal to the global community that America is no longer open to trade. This would tell the world that we are closed for business and put future trade agreements at risk.

Reichert continued, "Not only will this agreement bring fairness to American businesses and farms in our existing trade relationship with Colombia, but it will also support a critical ally in the region. Free trade agreements are a core component of our country's diplomacy and security. The Colombia FTA will bolster a nation that has stood tall as a beacon of democracy in the face of Hugo Chavez's anti-American policies and that has worked alongside us to aggressively combat the illegal drug trade. The fact is they are beginning to succeed in implementing the "Plan Colombia" policy that President Clinton negotiated. This is the time to reach out and help Colombia turn the corner, not reject them and leave them behind.

"There have been legitimate questions raised about this particular trade deal, and I was pleased the U.S. Trade Representative asked me to go along with her because I wanted to investigate and see for myself whether there was truth in the claims put forward by supporters and opponents of the FTA. Not only was I able to meet with citizens in the country who have a stake in this agreement, I was able to hear the questions of my colleagues who traveled with me and raised some of these concerns. While Colombia still has a way to go to finish protecting its citizens, I was very pleased at the answers we got on the progress they have made. Not only for their people, who have a fundamental right to peace, but for our people. If we want fewer drugs on our streets, we need to help Colombia. If we want less destruction of the rain forest, we need to help Colombia. If we want more stability in the region, we need to help Colombia."

Congressman Reichert was joined by House members Kevin Brady (R-TX), John Carter (R-TX), Phil English (R-PA), Bob Etheridge (D-NC), Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Hank Johnson (D-GA), Jerry Moran (R-KS), and Jean Schmidt (R-OH).



Reichert with Sergio Fajardo, the former mayor of Medellin, Colombia.

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Rep. Dave Reichert (WA-08)
Friday, April 11, 2008

“Hello, this is Dave Reichert. I have the privilege of representing the people of Washington State’s 8th District in the United States House of Representatives. The area I represent is a dynamic suburban district of innovation, encompassing Microsoft in the north to the beautiful Mount Rainier in the south.

“If you need any indication of just how badly broken Congress is, look no further than what happened in the House yesterday when, in an unprecedented maneuver, the majority voted to kill a bipartisan free trade agreement with Colombia. In this time of economic uncertainty, it is astounding that Democratic leaders in Washington, D.C., get in the way of a measure that is critical to growing our economy, creating jobs and enhancing positive relations with a strategic ally.

“As a result, Colombian goods will continue to enter the United States virtually duty-free, while American goods will continue to face steep tariffs. Common sense tells me we must level the playing field and give our workers and our businesses a fair chance to compete.

“By failing to act, Congress has missed a valuable opportunity to create jobs here at home and help get our economy back on track.

“We’re also looking at a housing crunch that has caused foreclosures to rise and home prices to fall. My Republican colleagues and I are committed to helping innocent victims of the housing crisis without a taxpayer bailout that rewards speculators and scam artists.

“We will continue to stand up for Americans who saved and invested responsibly, not reward reckless behavior at the expense of those who are responsible with their hard-earned money.

“Finally, with Tax Day around the corner, we must not lose sight of the fact that being an American taxpayer will soon become a much more expensive proposition. Without action, a massive, job-killing tax hike is looming on the horizon that will take, on average, an additional \$3,065 out of each Washington State family’s annual salary. With our economy slowing, the last thing a family struggling to make ends meet needs is more taxes. I know that suburban families in my district do not want higher taxes, they want lower taxes! I want lower taxes!

“The common-sense solution is to keep taxpayer money in the pockets of taxpayers, where it belongs. After all, tax relief empowers the American people to do what they do best – build businesses that strengthen our workforce and keep our economy competitive. Most simply put, tax relief allows families to do the simple things, like pay their bills, put food on the table, and keep their gas tanks full.

“As suburban families continue to confront the challenges of rising costs of living – not to mention the dreaded prospect of paying \$4 a gallon at the pump – Republicans are committed to growing our economy, fighting wasteful government spending, giving middle-class families more of their hard-earned tax dollars back, and fixing a broken Washington, D.C. so that it works for you, not the other way around.

“This is Congressman Dave Reichert from Washington State. Thank you for listening.”

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

July 10, 2008

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: TRADE

I commend Joel Connelly for emphasizing the importance of a national discussion of America's openness to trade in his Monday column ("Time for Candidates to Talk Trade"). In fact, I'd like to expand Connelly's call to Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain to publicly debate trade policy, and encourage all Washington residents to ask the governor, their congressional representatives and other local officials what they are doing to open new markets and level the economic playing field for U.S. workers.

Trade is the cornerstone of our state's economy. One in three jobs is connected to trade, and Washington businesses large and small contribute to exporting more than \$61 billion in goods and services annually. That is precisely why we must enact pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. I have repeatedly called on our congressional delegation to join me in urging House leaders to put aside election-year politics and bring these vital trade measures to the floor for votes. Thus far, the response has been muted.

In this period of economic uncertainty, it is imperative that we continue to pursue job-creating, pro-growth policies that keep our nation competitive in the global economy. Trade grows the economy, creates jobs, and strengthens diplomatic relations with strategic allies. Our region depends on free trade like few others in the world. It is my hope that the voices of Northwest residents and more public debate on trade policy will encourage our congressional delegation to unite in advancing these pending trade agreements.

U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert
8th District



Discussing the Return From Colombia

Reichert talks with Seattle CBS affiliate KIRO-TV in April 2008 on the day he arrived back in the United States from a congressional delegation visit with U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab to meet with President Alvaro Uribe, disarmed paramilitary combatants, and Colombian labor unions to help advance the Colombia Free Trade Agreement.



To watch the news coverage, visit Dave's YouTube Channel

<http://youtube.com/repdavereichert>

Reichert: New Local Trade Data Shows Surging Exports; Imperative for Congress to Act on Trade Agreements Now

Metropolitan Area Ranks Fourth Nationally

Washington, D.C., July 14, 2008 – Congressman Dave Reichert (WA-08) today hailed new data showing that the Bellevue-Seattle-Tacoma Metropolitan Area is the fourth largest export market in the nation. Through just the first half of 2007, sales of Seattle products in the global marketplace totaled \$25.1 billion, nearly matching the entire sum for the area less than two years ago (\$30.1 billion).

“These surging exports demonstrate the critical importance of free trade to economic growth and job creation in King and Pierce counties,” said Reichert. “In this time of economic uncertainty, it’s imperative that we continue to open markets for Washington State goods and services. Our local economy is becoming more, not less, dependent on trade. If we are going to remain competitive we must enact pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea to grow our economy, create more jobs, and strengthen diplomatic relations with strategic allies. These agreements are too important to allow them to languish while Congress plays election-year politics with trade policy.”

U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez commented, “Opening new markets for Seattle’s exporters will further bolster the metropolitan area trade and support local jobs.”

Reichert remains a staunch advocate for free and fair trade. He has called on the Washington State congressional delegation to unite and urge House leadership to bring these pending trade agreements to the floor for votes. He also recently traveled to Colombia with U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab on a bipartisan delegation to meet with President Alvaro Uribe, labor unions, disarmed paramilitaries, and local officials to get a firsthand look at the impact free trade would have on Colombia, its developing democracy, and its efforts to thwart the destabilizing influence of Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez.

The Bellevue-Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan region is comprised of Seattle, Tacoma, Bellevue, Everett, Kent, Renton, King County, Snohomish County, and Pierce County for statistical purposes. The area trailed only New York, Houston, and Los Angeles in terms of goods exported through the first half of 2007. Japan, China, and Canada were the leading export destinations for Northwest goods.

The data were compiled by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which measures the value of merchandise goods for 369 metropolitan areas across the nation. Service export values were not included in this data series. More information is available at www.trade.gov/metrodata.

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As members of the Washington state delegation, we urge you to bring the U.S.–Korea (KORUS) Free Trade Agreement to the floor within the standard 60-day window set forth by trade promotion authority when the agreement is submitted to Congress.

Free trade is essential to our state's economy and workers. We represent the most trade-dependent state in the nation, where one out of three jobs is connected to trade and more than \$61 billion in goods and services is exported annually. Korea is our state's fourth largest trading partner. By implementing the KORUS FTA, we will level the playing field and open new markets not just for major employers like Boeing, Microsoft, and Starbucks, but also for thousands of Washington small businesses, cherry and potato farmers, and wine makers.

In light of the recent breakthrough agreement reached to fully reopen the Korean market to all U.S. beef, now is the time to send a message to the world that America remains open for trade and that we understand the economic and diplomatic benefits of implementing trade agreements with strategic partners. Assuring American and Korean workers that you will bring the KORUS FTA to the floor under regular order is a needed first step in conveying this message.

We are not asking that you declare your support for the FTA, only that you will permit the House to have a real policy discussion about the agreement under the rules of consideration this chamber agreed to when it approved trade promotion authority. Trade is too important to our state's employers and workers to risk delaying consideration of the KORUS FTA.

Sincerely,


DOC HASTINGS CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS DAVE REICHERT
Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress

Reichert Calls on Colleagues: Washington State Delegation Must Unite to Demand Pelosi Hold Colombia Free Trade Vote

Washington, D.C., April 9, 2008 – Congressman Dave Reichert (WA-08) today circulated an emergency letter (attached) to colleagues in his state calling on them to join as one voice and urge Democratic leadership to reconsider plans to stop a vote on the Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced today that she would hold a vote Thursday to change existing rules in order to delay consideration of the agreement.

“Speaker Pelosi’s decision to actually change the rules of the House in order to derail consideration of the Colombia Free Trade Agreement is shocking,” said Reichert. “At a time of economic uncertainty, I am disappointed that the Speaker would let special interests trump debating a measure that is critical to Washington State and that grows our economy, creates jobs, and furthers positive relations with a strategic ally.

“Many times when Republicans were in the majority, my colleagues would call on me to go to my leadership to help the state, for instance when we learned of language that would allow supertankers onto Puget Sound. Today, I urge all of my colleagues in the Washington delegation – including Governor Gregoire – to join together and reject the Speaker’s effort to shelve this vital measure. Surely our collective voices will have an impact. Ours is the most trade-dependent state in the country. This is not a partisan issue – we should be able to join together and ask Speaker Pelosi to reconsider for the sake of our state’s economy and workers.

“The Colombia FTA will increase Washington exports, create new jobs, and enable us to continue pushing for other pending trade agreements under consideration, such as the Korea FTA, which is Washington State’s fourth-largest trading partner. We are all aware of the state of our nation’s economy. This is not the time to signal to the world that America is closed for trade and embolden China and Europe to exploit global markets.”

According to recent news reports, Pelosi will force a vote tomorrow on legislation that would delay required action on a free trade agreement with Colombia. The measure that will be voted on will first have to pass the House Rules Committee, which could meet this afternoon.

Congressman Reichert traveled to Colombia over the weekend with a bipartisan congressional delegation, and held meetings with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, the country's Attorney General, former guerilla combatants that have been demobilized, members of the business community, displaced workers, and leaders of labor unions who support the agreement, as well as labor leaders who oppose it. He left the country even more convinced that this trade agreement would benefit the state of Washington and the country.

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As members of the Washington State delegation, we urge you to reconsider tomorrow's vote to delay consideration of the Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and instead bring it before the House under regular order.

Free trade is critical to our state's economy and workers. We represent the most trade-dependent state in the nation. In fact, one out of three jobs in Washington State is connected to trade, and we export more than \$61 billion in goods and services annually. Delaying free trade agreements signals to our allies that America is closed for trade, and encourages our rivals to exploit new markets. This is unequivocally the wrong message to send in this time of economic uncertainty.

We understand there are questions that have been raised about the Colombia FTA, and many members of the Washington delegation share those concerns. But we believe those concerns should be discussed on the House floor as part of a debate. We urge you to honor the rules of consideration this chamber agreed to when it approved trade promotion authority, and permit us to have a real policy discussion about a measure important to our state's and our nation's economy.

Sincerely,


DOC HASTINGS CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS DAVE REICHERT
Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress

Reichert Statement on the House's Denial of Free Trade Debate

Washington, D.C., April 10, 2008 – Congressman Dave Reichert (WA-08) expressed his profound disappointment today at a House vote that will deny debate on the Colombian Free Trade Agreement:

“Yesterday, I was shocked, but today, I’m outraged and saddened. As a representative from the most trade-dependent state in the nation, I urged my colleagues in the Washington state delegation to reject this unprecedented rules change and allow the Colombia Free Trade Agreement to come to the floor for a vote. Today, this did not happen. I’m disappointed at the lack of support from our entire delegation. We should be united across party lines to support our state’s economy and workers.

“Delaying this free trade agreement today also signals to our allies that America is closed for trade, and encourages our rivals to exploit new markets. It also derails the consideration of other pending trade agreements like one with Korea, Washington State’s fourth largest trading partner. This is unequivocally the wrong message to send in this time of economic uncertainty.

“This trade agreement is a good deal for American workers. It is supported by such large local employers as Boeing and Microsoft. How can we unite to decry the Airbus tanker deal, and yet not work together to advance trade measures that support our state’s economy and workers? Not only can we help workers in the United States, but also poor, struggling people in Colombia. Through this agreement, we had the opportunity to give them hope. The political games the House played today to cater to special interests are shameful.”

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2008

Governor Christine Gregoire
State of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

Dear Governor Gregoire:

We write to ask you to declare your support for the US-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement and promptly call on Congressional leaders not to rewrite trade law and delay a vote on this important trade agreement.

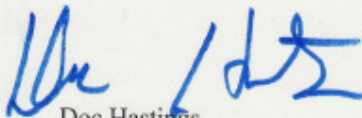
As you well know, Washington is the most trade dependent state in our nation, and our Congressional delegation has historically been among the strongest supporters of expanding international trade for the betterment of our state's citizens. It is important that our state and nation continue to support pro-trade policies, including the Colombia agreement, to grow our state's economy and create and sustain jobs.

Since passage of the Andean Trade Preferences Act in 1991, many Colombian products have enjoyed open and duty-free access to American markets. However, U.S. exports to Colombia face steep tariffs. In fact, many farm exports to Columbia currently face an average 30-percent tariff, which would disappear immediately on apples, cherries, pears and other products upon approval of the agreement before Congress. It is time to level the playing field for our local Washington businesses and farmers by providing them with tariff-free access to the Colombian market. Washington state businesses and organizations, from Microsoft and Boeing, to the Northwest Horticultural Council and the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, have already expressed their support of this important trade agreement.

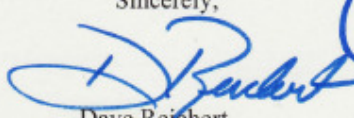
Unfortunately, earlier today Democrat House leaders launched an effort to change House rules to circumvent trade laws requiring Congress to act on the Colombia agreement within 90 legislative days. This unprecedented move to change the rules and indefinitely delay a vote is a serious threat to this agreement and jeopardizes the expansion of international trade in general, which plays such an important role in our state and nation's economy.

We urge you to publicly express your opposition to any delay to the 90-day vote requirement and to help persuade Washington's Congressional delegation to oppose this anti-trade move.

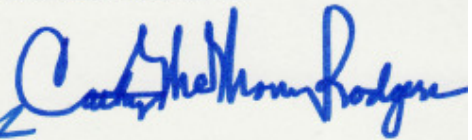
Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

cc: Washington state Congressional delegation

Reichert: U.S. House Must Pass Trade Agreements *Critical for Washington State Businesses and American Competitiveness*

Washington, D.C., October 1, 2007 – Congressman Dave Reichert (WA-08) gave the following statement today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives:

“Mr. Speaker: We must continue to open markets to encourage American companies to innovate and compete with their global counterparts. This grows our economy and creates jobs.

“I am proud to represent a district in Washington State that integrates our nation’s leading technology innovators with a vibrant and highly productive small business community. Opening new global markets gives them incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and employ more American workers. I have seen these jobs created in Washington State first-hand, with trade accounting for 1 out of every 3 jobs in the state of Washington.

“Free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea are currently pending before Congress. We cannot allow these important agreements to languish in committee. I urge my colleagues in the Majority to stop the delays, pass these free trade agreements, and renew Trade Promotion Authority. Let’s advance the trade measures needed to grow our economy, create jobs, and improve our relations with global partners.”

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Peru Free Trade Agreement Advances in the House

Reichert Urges Congress to Pass Other Trade Agreements

Washington, D.C., November 8, 2007 – Congressman Dave Reichert (WA-08) today voted in favor of the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, H.R. 3688. Reichert submitted the following statement:

“I rise in strong support of the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. We must continue to open markets to encourage American companies to innovate and compete with their global counterparts. This grows our economy and creates jobs.

“I am proud to represent a district in Washington State that integrates our nation’s leading technology innovators with a vibrant and highly productive small business community. Opening new global markets gives them incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and employ more American workers. I have seen these job-creating effects first-hand, with trade accounting for 1 out of every 3 jobs in my state.

“The Peru Trade Promotion Agreement will level the playing field and increase market access for American and Peruvian companies. It will grow our nation’s economy by more than \$2 billion.

“I hope that the passage of this agreement finally advances our broader trade agenda in Congress. I am disappointed that it has taken more than 5 months since the bipartisan deal reached in May – and over one year since the Peru Free Trade Agreement was signed – for this measure to finally come to the floor.

“We cannot allow important pending agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Korea to languish as the Peru measure did. I urge my colleagues in the Majority to stop the delays and pass these free trade agreements. Let’s advance the trade measures needed to grow our economy, create jobs, and improve our relations with global partners.”

With Congressman Reichert’s support, the legislation passed the House 285-132. The legislation is still pending in the Senate.

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Reichert Applauds Passage of Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension

Washington, D.C., October 1, 2007— Representative Dave Reichert (WA-08) today applauded the extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which would have otherwise expired on September 30. The TAA program was established under the Trade Act of 1974, and provides aid to workers whose jobs are displaced or whose hours of work and wages are reduced as a result of increased imports. Last week, Reichert supported House-passed legislation to extend the program through the end of the year.

“This program provides important support for American workers,” said Reichert. “We live in an increasingly globalized world, and free-trade agreements are necessary to maintain American competitiveness in the global economy. In fact, jobs tied to trade pay better than non-trade jobs and we must put our country in a position to compete, especially in Washington State which has an economy so dependent on trade.

“As we open new markets and increase the international flow of goods and services, we must make certain that the American workers whose jobs are displaced by trade obtain the necessary skills to adapt to this global marketplace and re-enter the workforce quickly. This extension allows for much-needed time to debate further reforms to TAA, while simultaneously ensuring that our workers receive the assistance they deserve. The world economy is here and will be here to stay. And as our economy continues to shift, we have a responsibility to look out for our working families.”

Workers whose employment is adversely affected by increased imports may apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance programs. TAA offers a variety of benefits and reemployment services to assist unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for training, job search and relocation allowances, income support and other reemployment services.

A short-term extension of TAA through November 16, 2007, was signed into law on Saturday, September 29, as part of House Joint Resolution 52. The original bill passed through the House and Senate would have extended the program through December 31, 2007.

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Reichert: “Decision Stifles Not Only Microsoft, but Future Innovation and Global Competitiveness”

Washington, D.C., September 17, 2007 – Congressman Dave Reichert (WA-08) spoke out today following his earlier statement regarding the ruling by the European Union Court of First Instance against the appeal of Microsoft, which found Microsoft guilty of monopoly abuse:

“It is unbelievable and unacceptable that the Court of First Instance today upheld the European Commission’s (EC) decision and penalties against Microsoft. The decision and penalties are not only in stark contrast with the resolution reached by the by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding these same issues in 2002, but flies in the face of the basic premise of American law: protecting consumers. The EC seems to be intently focused on only protecting competitors from competition.

“Today’s decision is not just about Microsoft. It sends a signal to high-tech companies around the world, and especially in the U.S., that they had better not become too successful or they will be subjected to the EC’s random standards of fairness, competition, and reasonable market share. Many other American technology companies are in line at the EC for this same unjust treatment. Again, I would ask successful companies that do business in Europe: Have you built this new European tax on American innovation into your business model?

“The decision is also relevant to the American justice system. I hope DOJ hears the alarm bell going off right now – if not I intend to make sure they do. I hope they realize that this European court has ignored DOJ’s own findings and that this represents an urgent call to action to avoid this kind of outcome in the future for U.S. businesses. Our own government owes its loyalty to those corporations who have already gone through lawsuits and negotiated settlements with them regarding these issues.

“Microsoft’s economic impact as a single, successful company is amplified many times over by the opportunities that its business and products have provided businesses of all sizes worldwide. Around the world, companies use Microsoft products and reap the rewards of better efficiency and productivity. And around the world, software businesses are formed and grow on the basis of the software products they have designed to work on the Windows platform.

“Again, I believe that this ruling sets a dangerous precedent that says Europe is closed for business to those companies who invest the capital and resources necessary to lead a market. It sets a dangerous precedent for not only other high-tech companies, but any company that wishes to do business in Europe. It’s my hope that in Congress and across the U.S., we fight for justice on behalf of Microsoft and other innovative and forward-thinking corporations in America.”

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CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT

REPRESENTING WASHINGTON'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA

- China is an enormously important economic partner, and it is imperative for the United States to engage this emerging power in strategic dialogue about protecting the intellectual property rights of American businesses; improving market access; and addressing trade imbalances and currency manipulation.
- Although Washington State has a trade surplus with China, I remain concerned about our growing national trade deficit.
- I am a member of two congressional working groups dedicated to legislative solutions that improve our economic relations with China and I have met with Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson to discuss our current strategic approach toward China and to advocate for how we can best support American businesses, workers, and consumers.
- I believe that America cannot become increasingly protectionist and close our borders to trade with China, because it will significantly harm our economy and put thousands of Americans out of work. The 8th District exported more than \$2.2 billion in goods and services to China in the past year alone. A hard-line, protectionist approach could jeopardize the existing Chinese market access that Washington businesses currently enjoy and that creates jobs in our state.
- We must encourage China to open up market access for American companies of all sizes and across all industries, from retailing to financial services to basic commodities.
- As we do so, we must be more aggressive in enforcing violations of intellectual property rights. Counterfeiting costs American businesses nearly \$25 billion per year in trademark, patent, and copyright losses. We cannot permit China to brazenly ignore World Trade Organization standards to the detriment of American companies and workers.
- Better enforcement of intellectual property rights violations is an important step toward ensuring that the benefits of our growing economic relationship with China are fairly shared by citizens of both countries.

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