

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.

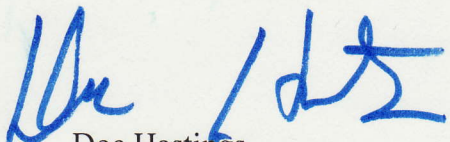
As you well know, Washington is the most trade dependent state in our nation, and our Congressional delegation has historically been among the strongest supporters of expanding international trade for the betterment of our state's citizens. It is important that our state and nation continue to support 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.

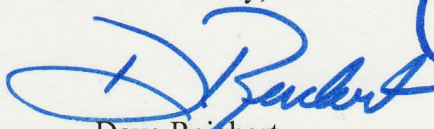
Unfortunately, earlier today Democrat House leaders launched an effort to change House rules to circumvent trade laws requiring Congress to act on the Colombia agreement within 90 legislative days. This unprecedented move to change the rules and indefinitely delay a vote is a serious threat to this agreement 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