



STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-COLOMBIA TRADE ALLIANCE

September 23, 2011

Leading CEOs and Textile Organizations See FTAs as Job-Creating Agreements

In an open letter to President Obama and Members of Congress, **32 CEOs of some of the United States' leading companies** – including, **Cargill, Citi, Ford Motor Company, GE, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Texas Instruments, Wal-Mart and Xerox** – urged the nation's political leaders to introduce and approve the pending free trade agreements (FTAs) as soon as possible.

*The CEOs wrote: "...As business leaders, we know firsthand how important international trade agreements are to maintaining and enhancing the competitiveness of American companies and workers. With the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Canada-Colombia FTA having gone into effect this summer, however, U.S. goods, services, and farm exports are losing ground every day to exports from these countries, as well as to exports from other countries that already have agreements in place...**There is no more time for delay. The Administration and Congress must act now to support American jobs.**"*

To read the full text of the letter, click [here](#).

Prominent U.S. textile, apparel and retail supply chain organizations, including the **American Apparel & Footwear Association, National Cotton Council, National Retail Federation, and 10 others** – last week sent a letter to the President and Congressional leaders, pressing for submission and passage of the U.S.-Colombia FTA. They also urged Congress to retroactively renew Andean trade preferences.

*The organizations wrote: "...In the first five months of this year, U.S. apparel imports from Colombia have already fallen by nearly 20 percent. And with every month of ATPA expiration and with every month of delay in passage of the Colombia FTA, those declines accelerate, jeopardizing millions of dollars of U.S. cotton, manufactured fiber, yarn, and fabric exports to Colombia and the thousands of U.S. workers supported by this mutually-beneficial two-way trade in textiles and apparel. Continued uncertainty of the long term health of this partnership will lead to further erosion, resulting in lost jobs in both Colombia and the United States. **The long-term solution lies in the U.S.-Colombia FTA...**"*

To read the full text of the letter, click [here](#).

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TO REGAIN AND GROW U.S. MARKET SHARE IN COLOMBIA, THE FTA MUST BE APPROVED ASAP!