



STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-COLOMBIA TRADE ALLIANCE

May 6, 2011

USTR Letter to Congress: A Momentous Step Towards Realizing the Benefits of the U.S.-Colombia FTA

Following U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk's May 4th [notification to Congress](#) of the Administration's intent to begin technical discussions on implementing legislation for the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA), policymakers and U.S. business community leaders alike welcomed forward movement on the agreement.

"Today's announcement is a critical victory in our efforts to pass the Colombia Free Trade Agreement and for U.S. ranchers, farmers and manufacturers. This trade agreement means new jobs for American workers and a two and a half billion dollar economic boost for the U.S. economy."

- Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

"As part of a new class of emerging economies, Colombia represents growth and job creation opportunities for American businesses and workers. The agreement, once implemented, is expected to increase U.S. exports to Colombia by \$1.1 billion per year. The benefits of stronger, fairer trade with Colombia will be seen across the United States."

- Business Roundtable

**U.S. Business Community, Policymakers
Welcome Progress on Agreement That Will
Increase U.S. GDP by \$2.5 Billion, U.S. Exports
by \$1.1 Billion**

"Today is a good day for U.S. workers and the economy...I led a bipartisan Congressional delegation to Colombia two weeks ago to see first-hand Colombia's strong commitment to completing each element of the action plan, and I was pleased with the tremendous progress that I saw."

- Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee

"The move confirms that the action plan clinched by President Obama and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos last month is being implemented effectively...Support from the American business and agriculture communities for the U.S.-Colombia accord is extremely broad and intense."

- U.S. Chamber of Commerce