



LATIN AMERICA TRADE COALITION

Why Support the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement? **Growth, Hope, and Opportunity**

GROWTH: Capitalizing on an already robust partnership

- America's two-way trade with Colombia has nearly doubled over the past five years, approaching \$18 billion in 2007.
- Colombia is the second most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world, our fourth-largest trading partner in Latin America, and our largest market for agricultural exports in South America. Its economic growth reached 7% last year, and poverty has been reduced by an impressive 15% since 2000.
- Already exporting to Colombia are nearly 8,000 U.S. companies, more than 80 percent of which are small and medium-sized firms that will benefit directly from the trade agreement.

HOPE: Supporting friends and allies in a region at risk

- The U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement will help Colombian citizens strengthen the rule of law, internationally recognized workers' rights, and transparency in business and government.
- The agreement will provide local citizens with long-term alternatives to narcotics trafficking or emigration. It will also open services markets, safeguard investments, and secure the intellectual property of U.S. inventors, researchers, and creative artists.
- Last year, Colombia's House of Representatives voted 84-3 and its Senate voted 54-16 to include labor and environmental provisions reached in the May 10 bipartisan trade deal in the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. Colombians are confident that stronger ties to the U.S. will enhance security, stability, and prosperity.

OPPORTUNITY: Leveling the playing field for U.S. workers and farmers

- More than 90% of all imports from Colombia already enter the U.S. marketplace duty-free under the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA), which was recently renewed by large bipartisan majorities in Congress.
- By contrast, U.S. exports to Colombia face average tariffs of 14% for manufactured goods and more than 50% for key agricultural exports such as corn and wheat. In other words, Colombians enjoy nearly free access to our marketplace while our access to theirs remains limited.
- The U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement will remedy the unfairness of today's U.S.-Colombia trade relationship and transform it into a mutually beneficial partnership by eliminating most tariffs immediately upon entry-into-force.