

CEO Letter to Congress on Colombia FTA

Open letter to the US Congress from the CEO's of Citibank, Coca-Cola, General Motors, ExxonMobil, Microsoft and more.

December 20, 2007

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Reid, Boehner, and McConnell:

Congress soon will decide whether to move forward with pro-growth and pro-rule-of-law policies in the Western Hemisphere or step back from a key ally. We urge Congress to strengthen American engagement and solidify American ties by approving the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA) as expeditiously as possible during the 110th Congress.

The U.S.-Colombia TPA:

- Will eliminate barriers to U.S. farm products, manufactured goods and services in the world's second largest Spanish-speaking country.
- Will provide new sales opportunities for small, medium and large companies and their employees, as well as American farmers and ranchers.
- Will promote sustainable and legitimate economic opportunities for the people of Colombia.

Congress' vote on the U.S.-Colombia TPA will shape the next decade of America's engagement with our hemisphere.

- Approval will strengthen ties with one of America's strongest allies in Latin America.
- Approval of the U.S.-Colombia TPA, along with the TPAs with Peru and Panama, will revitalize our commercial relations and send a strong signal to the entire Western Hemisphere of U.S. commitment and friendship at a time of considerable political and economic change.

Some say Colombia should do more to combat abuses and prosecute perpetrators of violence before Congress moves forward with the U.S.-Colombia TPA. Improving the rule of law in Colombia is vital, but delaying approval of the U.S.-Colombia TPA is not the answer. Delaying approval will not solve Colombia's internal problems – which Colombia's government, under the leadership of President Alvaro Uribe, continues to address with significant success. Delaying approval will undermine the U.S.-Colombia relationship, which has been a significant factor in promoting Colombia's progress.

Our geographic proximity no longer guarantees an American competitive edge in the large and vibrant Latin American market. We urge all Members of Congress to look closely at what is at stake in our own hemisphere and vote to support American

engagement and economic opportunity by approving the U.S.-Colombia TPA as expeditiously as possible.

At the same time, we recognize that the Colombia TPA is but a component of the U.S. trade agenda, including Doha and a number of other pending trade agreements, and urge the Congress to support that agenda as well to help accelerate pro-growth and pro-rule-of-law policies.

Respectfully,

*Harold McGraw III,
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer,
The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. and
Chairman, Emergency Committee for American Trade*

*Rex W. Tillerson,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,
ExxonMobil Corporation*

*Gregory R. Page,
Chief Executive Officer,
Cargill, Incorporated*

*John G. Rice,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
GE Infrastructure*

*James W. Owens,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,
Caterpillar, Inc*

*G. Richard Wagoner, Jr.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,
General Motors Corporation*

*William R. Rhodes,
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer,
Citibank N.A.*

*Samuel J. Palmisano,
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer,
IBM Corporation*

*Neville Isdell,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,*

The Coca-Cola Company

*Paul S. Otellini,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Intel Corporation*

*Steven A. Ballmer,
Chief Executive Officer,
Microsoft*

*Richard K. Templeton,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Texas Instruments Inc*

*Safra Catz,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Oracle*

*George W. Buckley
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer,
3M*

*A.G. Lafley,
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer,
The Procter & Gamble Company*

*H. Lee Scott,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*

*Edward Gonzalez,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Seaboard Marine, LPD*

*Anne M. Mulcahy,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,
Xerox Corporation*

*Robert J. Ulrich,
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Target Corporation*