

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



C. THOMAS KEEGEL
General Secretary-Treasurer

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April 10, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Representative:

Today the U.S. House of Representatives will consider a rule to suspend the Fast Track requirement of forcing the Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) from being considered within the next 60 legislative days. On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I am writing to urge you to support today's rule.

The unprecedented action of the President to send the Colombia FTA to Congress, without following established protocols of Congressional consultation, while not surprising is outrageous. We commend the Democratic Leadership for not letting the President get away with this.

The Teamsters have always opposed the current Fast Track procedure and are pleased that the Democratic Leadership has exerted its rightful constitutional authority over trade. The Bush Administration's trade policies have only hurt working class families and have further decimated the U.S. manufacturing base. Workers have had enough of his economic and trade policies.

With respect to the Colombia FTA, the Teamsters continue to believe, just as the Democratic Leadership has previously stated, that the Colombia FTA should not be considered until there is a sustained ending to the trade union killings and culture of impunity that exists in Colombia. For decades, Colombia has allowed the killing of trade unionists with impunity. More than 2,500 have been murdered. This year alone there have been 11 trade unionists killed—this is 11 too many. Not one person should ever lose their life for fighting for their right to organize. The United States government should not condone the killing of unionists by passing an FTA with a country that allows this to occur.

United States House of Representatives

April 10, 2008

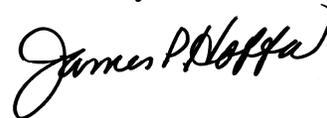
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Workers across America are hurting and begging for relief. Congress and President Bush need to continue to take action to strengthen the American economy and help U.S. workers. While Congress and this Administration have a responsibility to take action to pass such legislative priorities, such priorities should never be tied to the consideration of the Colombia FTA.

I once again urge you to support the rule being considered in the House today, and when doing so make clear that you strongly oppose the consideration of the Colombia FTA this year.

Please feel free to contact me, or Yvette Pena Lopes (my point person on trade issues at 202-624-6805), if you have any questions, or wish to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Hoffa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James P. Hoffa
General President

JPH/cwl