



Citizens Trade Digest

January 28th, 2008

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Bush administration desperately pushes for trade deal

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice led a delegation of US lawmakers to Colombia on January 24 and 25. One of several trips organized by Bush Administration officials since last year, they are intended to build the necessary votes in Congress to pass the Colombia Free Trade agreement. More delegations are planned between now and early March.

Advocates of the Colombia FTA want to get the agreement through Congress before the election season comes into full swing.

The Bush administration appears intent on persuading Rep. Nancy Pelosi to schedule a vote in the House of Representatives. According to sources on Capital Hill, however, the Colombia FTA would need at least 65 additional votes in order to pass.

During his final State of Union address, President Bush is expected to urge Congress to pass the pending FTA with Colombia, as well as the deals with Panama and South Korea

Bush to Pitch Free Trade

Wall Street Journal, January 28, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/wsj_bushtopitchfreetrade_01282008.pdf

Rice to visit Colombia in push for trade pact

Reuters, January 22, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_ricetovisitcolombia_01222008.pdf

Democrats not sold on Colombia trade pact

Miami Herald, January 19, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/mimaiherald_demsnotsoldoncolombia_01192008.pdf**Colombia trade fight could cripple U.S. fast track**

Reuters, January 18, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_colombiacouldruinfasttrack_01182008.pdf**Congress urged to act on Colombia pact**

Reuters, January 17, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_congressurgedoncolombia_01172008.pdf**Commerce chief presses for trade deals passage**

Reuters, January 10, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_commercechiefpushfortradedeals_01102007.pdf**Workers' Rights, Violence and Impunity in Colombia**

AFL-CIO, January 9, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/AFLColombia_Briefing_01152008.pdf**White House expected to offer Colombia FTA**

The Hill, January 9, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/thehill_colombiaofferexpected_01092008.pdf**Bush plans relentless push for trade deals - aide**

Reuters, January 9, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_relentlesstradepush_01092008.pdf

China currency and product safety bills uncertain in 2008

In 2008, two issues face the US Congress with regard to China: product safety and currency manipulation.

In the wake of increasing alarm over unsafe products from China, many toy companies are scrambling to allay fears. While the Toy Industry Association of America has been lobbying Congress for the creation of a mandatory inspection regime (to replace the current voluntary one) the Consumer Federation of America says that the proposed regulations are not strict enough.

The Chinese government, for their part, claims they have stepped up safety inspection of products for export.

Democratic Members of the House Ways and Means Committee are also considering introducing legislation that would allow the Commerce Department to levy duties on Chinese goods entering the US. Democrats claim this is a necessary response to the nearly \$250 billion trade deficit with China, which many argue is the result of currency manipulation.

United States Trade Representative Susan Schwab has denounced the plan.

'Thomas' toymaker settles suit over lead for \$30M

USA Today, January 22, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/usatoday_thomastoymakersettlement_01222008.pdf

Bush, Congress set for clashes over China, trade

Reuters, January 18, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_bushcongtoclash_01182008.pdf

Freshmen, elections give Dems incentive to move China bill

The Hill, January 17, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/thehill_demincentivechinabill_01172008.pdf

China warns product safety still a worry

Reuters, January 16, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_chinaproductsafetyworry_01162008.pdf

Toy Makers Mount Drive to Salvage China's Safety Reputation

New York Times, January 10, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/nyt_toymakersalvagechinarep_01102008.pdf

US elections put pressure on Doha timeline

The US and EU have declared their eagerness to conclude the World Trade Organization Doha Round of negotiations in 2008. That said, the window of opportunity may be closing due to the approaching US elections. In order for the US to consent to concluding the round, Congress would need to re-enact the recently expired Trade Promotion Authority. To many this seems unlikely. The political sensitivity of trade agreements has generally rendered them off-limits during election years. This is only compounded by the indications that the US is heading into a recession.

This adds yet another impediment to the long-troubled trade negotiations, which were initiated in 2001. WTO member nations continue to differ over the details of mutual market access for manufactured goods, as well as over agricultural subsidies. At the request of the Canadian and Brazilian governments, the WTO opened an investigation into the legality of US agricultural subsidies only days after the US Senate passed a new \$286 billion farm bill.

WTO negotiators still divided over industrial goods

Reuters, January 22, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_wtodivisionspersist_01222008.pdf

U.S. Election Fever May Delay Doha Talks

Inter Press Service, January 21, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ips_electionsmaydelaydoha_01212008.pdf

EU, U.S still hoping for 2008 Doha deal

Reuters, January 21, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_useustillpushfordoha_01212008.pdf

Doha Round Stuck on Issues of Development (again)

Inter Press Service, January 21, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ips_dohastuckondevelopment_01212008.pdf

WTO Opens Probe of US Farm Subsidies

Associated Press, December 17, 2007

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ap_wtoprobeusfarmsubsidies_12172007.pdf

For a compilation of the latest coverage on the WTO, visit: www.citizenstrade.org/wtonews.php

Citizens Trade Campaign is a coalition of labor, environmental religious, family farm, and consumer organizations united in the pursuit of social and environmental justice in trade policy