

# Clinton to Oppose Colombia, Panama Trade Deals, Supports Peru

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Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said she will support a free-trade agreement with Peru while opposing pending deals with Colombia and Panama.

Clinton, 60, issued a statement after being criticized by rival John Edwards for failing to take a stand on the Peru pact, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives today. The New York senator and former first lady had previously come out against a pending agreement with South Korea.

Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, was a strong proponent of free trade and prodded Congress to approve the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993. Hillary Clinton said she's opposing the Colombia deal because she's concerned about violence against trade unionists in the country and can't support the Panama agreement because the head of the nation's National Assembly is a fugitive from justice in the U.S.

"I have long said that we need smart trade policies that advance labor rights, the environment and our economic standing in the world," Clinton said in a statement released by her campaign. "As president, in my first months in office, I will take a time-out from new trade deals to assess their impact before going forward."

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