

What They're Saying:

"Pass The Colombia FTA Without Further Delay"

Joining A Chorus Of Support, U.S. Conference Of Mayors Today Passes Resolution Urging Congress To Pass The Colombia Free Trade Agreement

"[W]ith passage of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, U.S. exports to Colombia are projected to increase by over \$1 billion. ... The United States Conference of Mayors supports the speedy negotiation and passage of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement and hereby affirms to all members of the United States Congress its strongest endorsement of such an agreement."

– U.S. Conference Of Mayors, 6/23/08

"It Would Be Difficult To Expand The U.S. Economy Without Opening New Markets For U.S. Exports"

The Los Angeles Times: "Congressional Democrats have for months been playing a bait-and-switch game with [Colombian President Álvaro] Uribe." "[T]hey insist that Colombia show progress on human rights and union issues in order to win their support for the trade pact, and then when Uribe gives them what they want, they ask for something else. ... It looks increasingly as though the real reason Democratic leaders won't vote on the Colombia deal is that they don't want to alienate their organized-labor backers during an election year." (Editorial, "Democrats' Colombia Disconnect," *Los Angeles Times*, 5/28/08)

The Washington Post: "Human Rights Watch and its congressional partners are running out of excuses for their campaign against the U.S. free-trade agreement with Colombia." "If their agenda is genuinely human rights – and not opposition to free trade – it's time for them to change course." (Editorial, "Mr. Uribe's Send-Off," *The Washington Post*, 5/15/08)

The Wall Street Journal: "Mr. Uribe has done more to reduce violence, from both right and left, than any president in modern Colombian history." "He views the free-trade pact with the U.S. as a chance to continue that progress by connecting his country to the global economy to raise living standards." (Editorial, "Uribe Calls Pelosi's Bluff," *The Wall Street Journal*, 5/14/08)

Investor's Business Daily: "The most important way for the U.S. to seal a victory over the terrorists is to give Colombia the free-trade agreement it has earned." "FARC recruits from the poor. But those poor Colombians, given a choice between terror or free trade, choose the latter. Why aren't Democrats doing the same?" (Editorial, "Trade Vs. Terror," *Investor's Business Daily*, 5/28/08)

- "Congressional Democrats often speak of restoring U.S. influence in the world." "They steep themselves in puritanical righteousness, stalling the Colombia pact over a few crimes being prosecuted by authorities, while American influence and competitiveness wither." (Editorial, "Canada Eats Our Trade Lunch," *Investor's Business Daily*, 6/5/08)

National Review: "In stalling the agreement, congressional Democrats have shown an astonishing degree of political cowardice." "The agreement's treatment is proof that today's Democratic party is more deeply in hock to its labor-union supporters than at any time in the last two decades." (Editorial, "This Week," *National Review*, 6/16/08)

Orlando Sentinel: "[W]ith the U.S. economy in a slump and U.S. interests under siege in Latin America, all Americans stand to gain from quick approval of the deal." "Opponents of the deal who cite violence against labor-union members in Colombia are ignoring the government's steady progress in protecting members and bringing perpetrators to justice." (Editorial, "The Colombia Trade Deal Would Boost U.S. Economic, Foreign-Policy Interests," *Orlando Sentinel*, 5/12/08)

The Miami Herald: "The recent history of Colombia, in short, is a success story." "Previous sessions of Congress, mostly under Republican leadership, have done their part by appropriating aid money. Now it is time for the last step: Democrats in Congress must support a Free Trade Agreement that can tighten the bonds of economic security between the two countries." (Editorial, "What A Difference Six Years Makes," *The Miami Herald*, 6/16/08)

Longview [WA] Daily News: "It would be difficult to expand the U.S. economy without opening new markets for U.S. exports." "Accordingly, the trade protectionist sentiment evident in Congress today is concerning." (Editorial, "Free-Trade Deals Would Be Boon For Washington," *Longview [WA] Daily News*, 5/26/08)

The Palm Beach [FL] Post: "Rep. Pelosi is delaying a vote, even though a bipartisan majority in the House favors the agreement, because labor unions – a key part of the Democratic base – oppose the deal." (Editorial, "Fight Chavez With Friends," *The Palm Beach [FL] Post*, 5/24/08)

"Congress Should Reject Economic Isolationism And Pass The Colombia FTA"

Colombian President Álvaro Uribe: "I cannot get frustrated because we have to work as hard as we can every day." "We have received a lot of support from the U.S. – from the government, from Congress, from the media and from many sectors of public opinion. ... I hope that any day the FTA will be approved." (Mary Anastasia O'Grady, "Colombia's Peacemaker," *The Wall Street Journal*, 6/14/08)

Colombia Trade Minister Luis Guillermo Plata: "When I go back and report to Colombia, I'll probably tell them ... the mood seemed optimistic." "[T]his is alive and very much alive and it could become a reality hopefully in the near future." (Doug Palmer, "Colombia Still Sees Chance US Will OK Trade Deal," *Reuters*, 6/10/08)

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper: "We think this agreement ... will be an important part of integrating (Colombia) into further prosperity and democratic governance." (David Ljunggren, "Canadian Opposition Slams Colombia Free Trade Deal," *Reuters*, 6/9/08)

Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger: "Opening markets and lowering barriers for U.S. exports creates jobs, spurs innovation, and gives our economy a competitive edge." "Free-trade agreements ... solidify our relationships with key allies and level the trade playing field by lowering export barriers to American businesses, workers and farmers." (Carlos M. Gutierrez and Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Keep America Open To Trade," *The Wall Street Journal*, 5/12/08)

Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT): "I favor Colombia. It's a good agreement." "We in America have got to get our act together on trade. We're losing." (Peter Cohn, "Baucus: Still Chance Congress Will Approve Colombia FTA," *Congress Daily PM*, 6/10/08)

Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL): "We understand, instinctively, the need for this trade agreement to improve the lives of people in Latin America – in Colombia." "We know that Colombia, by being at a disadvantage if it doesn't have a free trade agreement, will backslide economically." (Larry Lipman, "GOP Senators, Hispanic Business Leaders Push Colombia Trade Pact," *Austin [TX] American-Statesman*, 5/7/08)

Representative Wally Herger (R-CA): "Congress should reject economic isolationism and pass the Colombia FTA without further delay." "Millions of U.S. jobs are dependent on trade. Without trade, many of these jobs would be lost. Open markets create new opportunities for U.S. producers to sell their products overseas." (Wally Herger, Op-Ed, "Fair Trade Bolsters The U.S., California Economy," *Redding [CA] Record-Searchlight*, 5/16/08)

Representative Adam Smith (D-WA): "I think that is a huge mistake. It certainly is an insult to Colombia." "If you want to vote it down ... that's fine. But to go through all the effort of negotiating an agreement and not vote on it, I have a hard time with that." (Doug Palmer, "Democrat Urges House Vote On Korea, Colombia Pacts," *Reuters*, 5/22/08)

State Senator Kevin Coughlin (R-Ohio): "It's time to reconsider and pass the Colombia Free Trade Agreement." "Congress would do well to remember that there is a country beyond the Beltway, and that not all of us share a zeal for political drama." (Kevin Coughlin, Op-Ed, "End The Politics And Pass CFTA," *The Times-Gazette [OH]*, 5/13/08)

"Approval Of This Agreement Is A Clear Win For Our Workers, Customers, And The U.S. Economy"

Former Commerce Secretary Barbara Hackman Franklin: "[T]he message being sent around the world is that the US cannot be trusted to deliver on its agreements and does not stand by its friends." (PBS's "The Nightly Business Report," 5/13/08)

U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Spokesman Christopher Wenk: "It continues to get lost that the United States is still the leading exporter in the world." "We need to keep the momentum going, keep the pressure on. Some people are expecting the business community to just give up, but we are not." (Kate Ackley, "Trading Up," *Roll Call*, 5/19/08)

Center for Vision and Values Economist Mark W. Hendrickson: "What explains this pointed rejection of a longtime ally at such a critical juncture?" "The reason is that John Sweeney – the leftist head of the AFL-CIO – forced Pelosi's hand. This episode is highly instructive. It shows how completely Big Labor controls the Democratic Party." (Mark W. Hendrickson, Op-Ed, "Colombia And Democracy Under Siege," *White Mountain [AZ] Independent*, 5/16/08)

Fourteen Technology Trade Policy Associations: "Colombia is a growing market for the U.S. high-tech industry, with 44 million consumers and one of the fastest-growing economies in Latin America." "Approval of this Agreement is a clear win for our workers, customers, and the U.S. economy." (Fourteen technology policy trade associations, Open Letter To The President And Congressional Leaders, 5/20/08)

Caterpillar Inc. Chairman and CEO Jim Owens: **"With nearly one in five jobs tied to trade and American exports accounting for one-quarter of U.S. economic growth, we cannot turn our backs on free trade agreements like the Colombia FTA that promise fair rules and expanded economic opportunities for our workers."** ("Nation's Leading CEOs Urge Congress to Pass Colombia Free Trade Agreement," *Business Wire*, 5/20/08)

Council On Foreign Relations For Latin American Studies Fellow Shannon O'Neil: **"Latin America has never mattered more to the United States."** "By truly beginning to engage Latin America on its own terms, Washington can mark the start of a new era in U.S.-Latin America relations." (Shannon O'Neil, Op-Ed, "A New Direction In Latin America." *The Washington Post*, 5/30/08)