



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

June 8, 2011

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Cc: All Members, U.S. House of Representatives
All Senators, U.S. Senate

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform, I am writing to urge you to submit to Congress the pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and Korea. With unemployment at record numbers and the economy still struggling to recover, enacting policies that will boost trade will do much more in the immediate and long term to grow the economy and create new jobs than any program that continues government spending, such as Trade Adjustment Assistance.

As your administration has repeatedly acknowledged, increasing trade by lowering tariffs and subsidies worldwide provides new markets for American industries and when firms find new customers abroad they are more likely to invest at home leading to new innovations and higher paying jobs.

Passage of the US-Korea free trade agreement would increase U.S. exports by over \$10 billion and create 70,000 American jobs. This agreement would abolish 95 percent of tariffs on all industrial and consumer goods within three years.

Passage of free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama would open up new markets for U.S. manufacturing and agricultural products while providing consumers with lower priced products at home. Immediately after approval and enactment of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, over 80% of U.S. exports to Colombia would enter duty-free and remaining tariffs would be phased out within a decade. The U.S. will have access to \$4 billion in new markets and the American agricultural industry will see an estimated \$1.1 billion dollar overall increase in their exports alone. While more than ninety percent of imports from Panama are duty free, U.S. products still face tariffs when entering Panama. The Panama FTA will eliminate this trade barrier.

Trade is the backbone of the U.S. economy and an area where America remains at a competitive advantage. Once again, I urge you to prove to the American people that you are serious about economic growth and job creation and submit the trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama to Congress.

Onward,

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