

NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, INC.

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June 27, 2005

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0104

Dear Senator Sessions:

On behalf of the 300 members of the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC), I urge you to support S.1307, legislation to implement the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). Because the DR-CAFTA is overwhelmingly in the national economic interest of the United States, the NFTC will include your vote on this important trade agreement as a Key Vote in the annual NFTC Congressional Trade Report Card.

There are many important reasons to support the DR-CAFTA. First, the DR-CAFTA represents a high-standard, comprehensive and commercially meaningful free trade agreement which will stimulate economic growth and strengthen relations for all countries involved. By eliminating trade barriers and improving trade rules, the DR-CAFTA will improve and expand trade among the United States, the Dominican Republic and our Central American neighbors. The region is already the twelfth largest trading partner of the United States, its second largest market in Latin America, and sixth fastest growing market over the past five years.

Approval of the DR-CAFTA is vital to our nation's broader trade and foreign policy agenda. President Carter and seven former Secretaries of State recently recognized the strategic importance of this agreement by strongly endorsing it. These strategic benefits include promoting economic stability in the region and setting a positive example for other developing countries regarding the importance of trade liberalization to broader economic development, particularly in the WTO Doha Round negotiations.

For these reasons and many more, we urge your approval of the DR-CAFTA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. A. Reinsch", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

William A. Reinsch
President, NFTC