

# NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, INC.

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February 8, 2011

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The NFTC is an association of some 300 U.S. business enterprises engaged in all aspects of international trade and investment. Our membership covers the spectrum of industrial, commercial, financial, and service activities, and we seek to foster an environment in which U.S. companies can be dynamic and effective global competitors. **We urge you to take immediate action to pass legislation extending funding for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program and Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) beyond the current expiration date of February 12, 2011.**

In early 2009, Republicans and Democrats in both the House and the Senate found common ground to come together to authorize TAA through 2010 and redesign benefits to be more flexible and accessible. Since the new TAA program went into effect on May 18, 2009, over 360,000 workers affected by more than 3,500 layoffs have been certified to receive TAA benefits. TAA for Firms is also seeing record usage with a 30% increase in small U.S. manufacturing and service firms being certified into the program this year over FY-2009. And the TAA for Farmers program has helped about 5,000 agricultural producers across the country improve their competitiveness.

ATPA has enjoyed bipartisan support since 1992 and currently benefits hundreds of thousands of workers in the U.S. and the Andean countries which it serves, particularly in Colombia. It lowers the cost of needed inputs into U.S. manufacturing, and as a centerpiece of U.S. anti-narcotics policy in the region, provides needed jobs in the legitimate economy as an alternative to illegal production of narcotics. In the next four months alone, access under ATPA to the U.S. market for Colombian cut flowers for Valentine Day and Mother's Day can make the difference between destabilizing hunger and unemployment and Colombia's economic recovery from the recent devastating floods. A lapse in these preferences, even for a short period, would threaten to undo many of our economic and foreign policy successes and objectives in the region.

**We urge you support legislation to extend TAA and ATPA before their expiration on February 12, 2011.**

Sincerely,

William A. Reinsch  
President