



June 29, 2010

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives
2245 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0543

Dear Congressman Peterson:

We are writing to strongly urge your support for H.R. 4645, the Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act, which is scheduled to be marked up in the House Committee on Agriculture this Wednesday June 30.

H.R. 4645 represents a bipartisan effort to remove self-imposed and counterproductive barriers to American citizens, farmers and businesses to humanitarian trade with and travel to Cuba. The legislation would reverse the controversial and restrictive “payment of cash in advance” rule governing U.S. exports to Cuba, eliminate an expensive and unnecessary requirement that payments to U.S. agricultural sellers must pass through banks in third countries and lift restrictions on travel by American citizens to Cuba.

The Committee mark up on Wednesday will likely be one of the few opportunities this year to vote to liberalize trade and encourage U.S. engagement in the world. Nearly 140 trade associations and NGOs have expressed support for the bill. We are proud to count the National Foreign Trade Council and USA*Engage among the diverse group of organizations and individuals to support the intent of the legislation. From Human Rights Watch to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to prominent Cuban dissidents, there is strong support for this bill.

The National Foreign Trade Council and USA*Engage expect that the vote on H.R. 4645 will be included in their Congressional scorecard this year should the bill come to the floor.

On behalf of the National Foreign Trade Council and USA*Engage, we encourage your support for H.R. 4645 and urge you to oppose any amendments to the bill.

Sincerely,

William A. Reinsch
President, National Foreign Trade Council
Co-Chair, USA*Engage

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Co-Chair, USA*Engage