

**Business Roundtable**  
**Emergency Committee for American Trade**  
**National Association of Manufacturers**  
**National Foreign Trade Council**  
**U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

September 25, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Republican Leader  
House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Reid, Boehner, and McConnell:

We are writing to urge your support for extending the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) before its expiration on December 31, 2008. The original legislation, then known as the Andean Trade Preferences Act (ATPA), was first established in 1992 to foster legitimate development alternatives to narco-trafficking in the Andean countries of Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia and create a stronger and more vibrant commercial relationship. Since that time, ATPDEA has been renewed and expanded on a strongly bipartisan basis several times.

ATPDEA has produced important economic opportunities and diversification in the Andean region and strong economic relationships between the United States and Peru and Colombia. The governments of those two beneficiary countries estimate that ATPDEA sustains more than 1.5 million jobs.

It is important to recognize, nonetheless, that ATPDEA is not a substitute for the stronger and more reciprocal relationship that the United States is seeking to forge with both Peru and Colombia through the implementation of reciprocal trade agreements with those countries. The U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement was approved by the U.S. Congress and is now being fully implemented by Peru before it will enter into force. The U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement is awaiting approval by the U.S. Congress, something we strongly urge Congress to also complete this year. In both cases, however, the trade agreements will not enter into force until after the expiration of ATPDEA, creating a gap in the trading relationship that could undermine anti-narcotics efforts and result in a substantial loss of opportunities in those countries and the United States. For that reason, it is vital that ATPDEA be extended for those countries before the end of the year.

At the same time, there are serious concerns within the U.S. business community about breaches of the basic rule of law that are occurring in Ecuador and Bolivia. We urge Congress and the Administration to reconsider how the ATPDEA should apply, if at all, to these countries given their actions.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge your support for the renewal of ATPDEA this year before its expiration.

Respectfully,

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cc: The Honorable Max Baucus  
The Honorable Charles Grassley  
The Honorable Charles Rangel  
The Honorable Jim McCrery