



# AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist  
*President*

March 17, 2008

To: All Members of the Senate

Re: US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement

Dear Senator,

The recent turmoil in South America clearly demonstrates the importance of passing the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Colombia is our last, best ally in South America, a democracy committed to stamping out the scourge of organized crime and drug trafficking that plagues both of our nations with violence. Colombian President Uribe's cooperation with us on this problem in the face of the resistance he meets from their neighbors is admirable and should never be discounted.

Free trade has unfortunately become somewhat more controversial this election year in certain states as candidates look for straw men to blame for economic problems. But this demagoguery can not be allowed to stand in the way of doing what is right for one of our closest allies. By passing the Colombia FTA, the United States will be standing with President Uribe and putting the dictators and terrorists who threaten him on notice that he is a champion of freedom and enjoys our support. In addition, we will build his popularity at home by spurring economic growth in Columbia.

The economic and national security benefits for the United States and Colombia are clear – the FTA will provide jobs and access to markets for peoples of both nations. It will also help bolster and grow the Colombian economy at a time they need it most. They are facing an internal terrorist threat that seeks to reinstate the lawless days of decades past and reconstitute the narcotics trafficking that threatened the lives of millions of Americans. President Uribe has courageously stood up these terrorists and drug cartels, and we, as a nation, should stand with him. Make it clear, in no uncertain terms, to those who seek to destabilize Colombia for their own agenda will not succeed, that President Uribe stands for freedom for the people of Colombia, and we stand with him.

I urge you, as strongly as I can, do not abandon our greatest ally in South America. Act now to pass the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Stand with President Uribe and stand up to those who would seek to rob Colombia of their precious democracy.

Sincerely,

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President,  
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