



# AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist  
*President*

September 16, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

**Subject: U.S.-Columbia Free Trade Agreement**

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), I am writing to express this organization's strong support for the Columbia Free Trade Agreement. A tariff is nothing more than a tax on international commerce. Supporters of high tariffs are supporters of choking international trade and the economic growth it brings. **A vote for free trade is a vote for lower taxes and more prosperity for all.**

The Columbian house and senate have overwhelmingly endorsed this agreement, and popular support runs high. Legitimate economic opportunities stabilize nations plagued by narcotics trafficking, organized crime, and terrorism like Columbia. The U.S., meanwhile, will have access to \$4 billion in new markets. American farmers and ranchers in particular will benefit from the abolition of Columbian duties on agricultural and meat products. Columbians desire goods for their cash, and Americans desire cash for their goods. Free trade is always mutually beneficial.

Furthermore, a U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will strengthen an already close relationship with a reliable ally of the United States. Since tariffs and trade barriers amount to government-imposed costs on both companies and consumers, eliminating these barriers in a free trade agreement amounts to a significant tax cut for both countries.

The U.S. must send a loud and clear message to the nations of the developing world that it supports, encourages, and rewards countries like Columbia which embrace free markets and democratic governments. Americans for Tax Reform urges you to bring the Columbia Free Trade Agreement to a vote.

Onward,

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