

Erik Houser
Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee
120 Maryland Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002.

February 29, 2012

Office of the United States Trade Representative
FOIA Officer
1724 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552 et seq. ("FOIA"), I am requesting access to the following public records from all offices within the Office of the United States Trade Representative:

- Any correspondence, including electronic, to your agency from or on behalf of former Senator George LeMieux (September 2009-January 2011).
- Any correspondence, including electronic, to your agency from or on behalf of George LeMieux, in his former capacity as a Chief of Staff to Florida Governor Charlie Crist (January 2007-January 2008).

I ask that you state the specific legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions of documents. If possible, please identify each document that falls within the scope of this request but is withheld from release, as well. If requested documents are located in, or originated in, another installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate installation or bureau. I would like to clarify and reiterate that I am *not* asking for access to any records that are explicitly considered private; rather, I am seeking only those records that are considered to be public information under the Freedom of Information Act.

If the information can be sent through email or digital/electronic format, please send it that way (address provided above), particularly if providing the information reduces the time or expense involved. Otherwise, please send the information in paper form (mailing address also provided above).

To help assess my status for copying and mailing fees, please note that I am a representative of a political organization, gathering information for research purposes only. Disclosure of this information is likely to be in the public interest and is not for commercial activities. I am willing to pay reasonable costs incurred in locating and duplicating these materials. Please contact me prior to processing to approve any fees or charges incurred in excess of \$250.

Thank you for your cooperation with this request. I am willing to discuss ways to make this request more manageable to your office. Please do not hesitate to contact me either via telephone or email.

Sincerely,



Erik Houser

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

May 14, 2012

Mr. Erik Houser
Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee
120 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Houser:

This letter is USTR's response to your Freedom of Information Act request for **“any correspondence to your agency from or on behalf of former Senator George LeMieux (September 2009-January 2011); any correspondence to your agency from or on behalf of Goerge LeMieux in his former capacity as a Chief of Staff to Florida Governor Charlie Crist (January 2007-Jauary 2008).”**

Please be advised that, after a search of our files, we have found three (3) documents within the scope of your request, which we are releasing to you in their entirety.

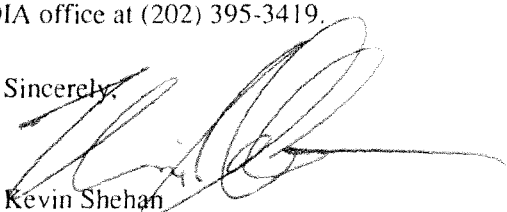
Inasmuch as this constitutes a complete response to your request, I am closing your file in this office. In the event that you are dissatisfied with USTR's determination, you may appeal such a denial, within thirty (30) days, in writing to:

FOIA Appeals Committee
Office of the United States Trade Representative
1724 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked: “Freedom of Information Act Appeal”. In the event you are dissatisfied with the results of any such appeal, judicial review will thereafter be available to you in the United States District Court for the judicial district in which you reside or have your principal place of business, or in the District of Columbia, where we searched for the records you seek.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the FOIA office at (202) 395-3419.

Sincerely,



Kevin Shehan
Attorney Advisor

Case File# 12031311

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508
July 15, 2010

The Honorable George S. LeMieux
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator LeMieux:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President urging the Administration to propose to the Congress a timeline for Congressional consideration of the pending free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama. President Obama has asked me to respond.

As you know, the Administration believes that the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) holds significant economic potential and strategic importance for the United States. But the President believes that more must be done to level the playing field for U.S. workers and producers in the key sectors of autos and beef. That is why, at his June 26 meeting with President Lee, President Obama announced that he was launching an initiative to complete the KORUS FTA.

The President has instructed me to initiate new discussions with my Korean counterpart to resolve the outstanding issues related to autos and beef by the time of the President's November visit to South Korea for the next G20 summit. With the resolution of these issues, President Obama intends to submit the KORUS FTA to Congress for approval in the months following his November meeting with President Lee.

Right now, we are consulting with Congress and stakeholders to develop a package of proposals that we can present to Korea in the near future. On autos, our goal is to level the playing field in the automotive sector for U.S. workers and manufacturers. While the current text of the agreement includes a range of provisions addressing tariffs and non-tariff measures in the sector, it does not go far enough. With regard to beef, our goal is to move Korea toward increasing market access for beef consistent with science.

The Colombia and Panama free trade agreements are also important trade priorities for the Administration, and the President has announced his commitment to moving forward with the agreements as soon as possible. We are working to address the outstanding issues related to both of these agreements in order to be able to submit the agreements for Congressional consideration. In the case of Colombia, we are working to improve the labor code and to enhance measures to address violence against labor union officials to ensure that union rights in that country can be fully and freely exercised. With Panama, we are seeking to address concerns with certain aspects of Panama's labor regime and its tax transparency rules. Colombia and Panama are both highly valued U.S. partners in the region, and we recognize the significant commercial advantages to having the Colombia and Panama free trade agreements enter into force.

The Honorable George S. LeMieux
Page Two

I hope I can count on your active involvement and support in underscoring the benefits all three of these agreements will bring to the United States.

I look forward to working closely with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Ron Kirk

1032857

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 1, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

159894
A: Eissenstat
Cutler
C: Reif
Jimenez

Dear Mr. President:

Despite your comments on April 16th, reiterating your support for the completion of the Korean, Colombian and Panamanian Free Trade Agreements ("FTA"), there has been little substantial progress in the enactment of these critical accords. In fact, Luis Plata, Colombia's Trade Minister, said his nation still had not received a "concrete list" of actions which Colombia must take before your Administration supports Congressional action on these agreements. Therefore, we respectfully ask your Administration provide, on an expedited basis, to Korea, Colombia and Panama, a well-defined and finite list of those outstanding issues they need to accomplish. Given Congress' role in approving these agreements, we also request you propose a specific timeline for the enactment of these FTAs.

The immediate consideration of these FTAs has never been so important. The European Union has negotiated trade agreements with a number of Central American countries, including Panama. This is in addition to the FTA the Europeans have reached with Korea. The impact of our inaction is already being felt. For example, Minister Plata noted that in 2008 the United States held 80 percent of the yellow corn market in Colombia. Subsequently, a trade agreement between Colombia and Argentina and Brazil eliminated, for those nations, the Colombian tariff on yellow corn. As a result, our share of the Colombian yellow corn market has dropped by more than half. A similar result can be expected in a larger variety of markets as the Canadian government works to complete a treaty with Colombia.

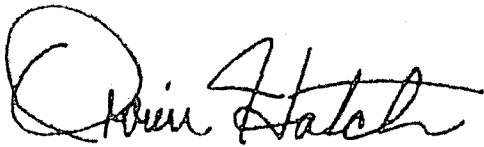
Ratification by the Congress of the Korean, Colombian and Panamanian FTAs would be the catalyst for significant economic growth and job creation in the United States. Based on figures by the United States International Trade Commission ("USITC"), the Korean FTA will facilitate the growth of our economy by up to \$11.9 billion. US exports of goods to Korea would grow by \$9.7 to \$10.9 billion, primarily in the areas of agricultural products, machinery, electronics, and transportation equipment.

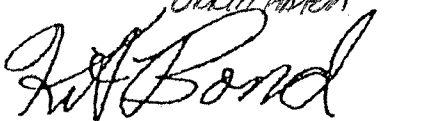
Implementing the Colombia FTA will increase our nation's gross domestic product by \$2.5 billion. The benefits of the Panamanian FTA are similar. In 2006, the USITC estimated our trade surplus with Panama will increase as a result of the implementation of this agreement. At the time, the United States enjoyed a \$2.2 billion trade surplus with Panama. The treaties will

also benefit our balance of trade with Colombia and Panama since the agreements will end the trade preference programs which permit these countries to export a variety of products to the United States virtually duty free.

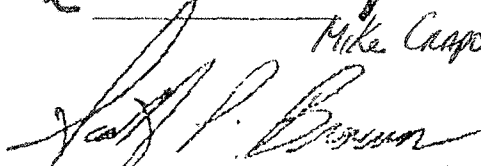
The choice is clear. In a time of diminished prosperity, it is in the United States' best interest to stimulate our economy by opening new foreign markets to our nation's products and services, creating countless jobs. Therefore, in order to reap the economic potential these FTAs offer, we respectfully request that your Administration provide, on an expedited basis, to Korea, Colombia and Panama a well-defined and finite list of those particular outstanding issues to be accomplished and provide Congress with a proposed specific timeline for the enactment of these FTAs once those articulated matters are resolved.


Sincerely,

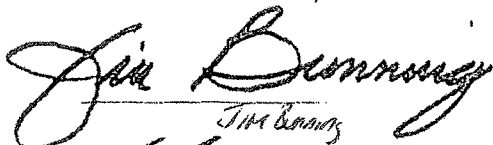

Orrin Hatch

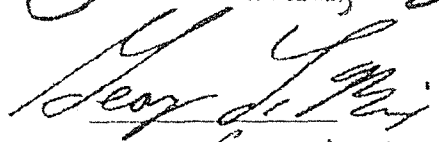

Christopher Bond


Mike Crapo



Scott Brown


Tom Kyl


Tim Wainwright

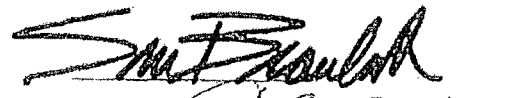

George LeMay


Pat Roberts

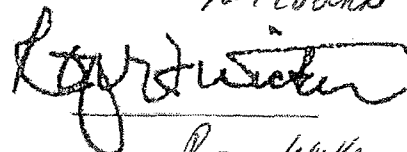

Robert Bennett


Michael Enzi


James Inhofe


Sam Brownback


Tom Coburn


Ryan Wicker

John Corry
John Corry

John Erskin
John Erskin



November 6, 2009

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NRW

Ambassador Ronald Kirk
Office of the United States Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

It was nice to visit with you on Tuesday. I enjoyed our discussion and appreciate your insights on the Administration's policy objectives on trade issues.

Like you, I have a keen interest in promoting trade between the United States and our trading partners. Completing our trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea will go a long way toward advancing our economic interests at home and abroad. Our nation is uniquely positioned to reap significant benefits from implementing these agreements.

I share your interest in this matter and look forward to working with you and my colleagues in the Senate to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,



George S. LeMieux
United States Senator