



Trade Facts

Office of the United States Trade Representative
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Broad Support for Peru, Colombia, and Panama Trade Promotion Agreements

What they are saying...

“The United States has much to gain by expanding free trade -- and much to lose, particularly in Latin America, if the pacts are rejected by Congress.”

- *The Washington Post*, April 4, 2007

“A defeat for any of the three (Peru, Colombia, Panama FTAs) would do great harm to the Andean region, where democrats are battling Hugo Chavez’s neo-socialist populism. Mr. Uribe, Peruvian President Alan Garcia and Panamanian President Martin Torrijos have all bet their futures on opening their economies to the U.S. If they’re rebuffed, the local disciples of Mr. Chavez will say they were right not to trust the capitalist Yankees.”

- *Wall Street Journal*, May 4, 2007

U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement

“Today, Peru’s economy is growing 5% annually, but half its people still live on \$2 or less a day. Engagement with the global economy, as neighboring Chile has shown, is the best path to prosperity, and American consumers also benefit from a lowering of barriers.”

- *L.A. Times*, October 11, 2006

“Postponing or denying approval of a U.S.-Peru FTA would be a geo-political blunder, convincing neighbors that the United States has turned insular. And it would punish Peru for doing the right thing—trying to open its markets.”

- *The Washington Post*, December 11, 2006

U.S.- Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement

“There are important regional economic and political imperatives in favor of the Colombia agreement. It would affirm America’s interest in and commitment to Colombia’s economic development while also increasing market access for U.S. goods. Currently, the United States provides tariff-free access to many Colombian goods under the Andean Trade Preferences and Drug Enforcement Act, but we are not afforded similar treatment in Colombia. This deal would change that.”

- *Tom Daschle, The Washington Post, June 25, 2007*

“There exists a country that has managed, with American aid, to stabilize its government, disarm most of its militias, drastically slash crime and foster economic growth. It’s Colombia, and despite well-founded concerns about this country’s continuing troubles, it deserves our support.”

- *The San Francisco Chronicle, June 13, 2007*

“Turning away from the Colombia Free Trade Agreement will not end discontent with stubborn poverty, inequality and political marginalization. Rather, it will lock out a valuable tool that can be used to assist in the improvement of rule of law, economic investment and the transition of the poor out of the dead-end informal economy into the more stable formal labor market.”

- *Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, Miami Herald, June 20, 2007*

U.S.- Panama Trade Promotion Agreement

“Congress should approve this agreement and the critical economic and foreign policy advantages it promises for America.

- *General Wesley K. Clark and Joe R. Reeder, The Christian Science Monitor, July 5, 2007*

“On economic grounds alone, the U.S. has everything to gain by approving these trade deals. Most Peruvian and Colombian exports already have duty-free access to the U.S. market through the Andean Trade Preferences Act. But U.S. manufacturing and farm exports heading south still face high tariff and non-tariff barriers. The regional financial center of Panama is especially attractive for U.S. services but is likewise a protected market.

- *Wall Street Journal, May 4, 2007*