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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2504

May 11, 2010

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The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Over the past few years, the federal government has taken unprecedented action to help shield the American people from the dangers of a prolonged economic depression and fiscal crisis. As our economic engine begins to pick up steam and we look toward additional legislative means to create jobs in our country, it will be important for the Administration and for Congress to look beyond simply extending previously approved short-term stimulus programs and enacting new tax cuts for small businesses.

In order to create jobs and improve domestic economic conditions over the long-term, it will be important to tap the international demand for U.S. products and enact policies that expand export opportunities for American farmers and businesses. We were pleased to hear during your State of the Union address a commitment by the Administration to double the nation's exports in the next five years and to specifically strengthen trade with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Trade agreements with those three nations have languished. It is now time for the Administration to finalize any amendments to them and to submit their implementing legislation to Congress.

American agriculture and rural America particularly stand to gain if Congress approves pending trade agreements between the U.S. and Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. According to one analysis of the pending agreements, it is estimated that U.S. agricultural exports would gain more than \$815 million in Colombia, \$195 million in Panama, and \$1.8 billion in South Korea. And, according to USDA, each farm export dollar earned stimulated another \$1.65 in business activity, and agricultural exports generated 841,000 full time civilian jobs, which include 482,000 jobs in the non-farm sector.

As the Administration and Congress work to create jobs and to double U.S. exports over the next five years, we must approve pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. We hope that you will move their implementing legislation to Congress without delay.

Sincerely,



IKE SKELTON  
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN  
Member of Congress



SILVESTRE REYES  
Member of Congress

IKE SKELTON  
4th DISTRICT, MISSOURI

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May 11, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker,

We were pleased to hear the President speak before a joint session of Congress about the need to double U.S. exports over the next five years. We feel that tapping international demand for U.S. goods and services and expanding export opportunities for farmers and businesses is a good idea for rural America and hope that the House of Representatives will work sincerely with the Administration in the coming weeks to strengthen international trade.

In particular, we are eager to see legislative action on pending trade agreements between the United States and Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. The Administration has been working to assuage the concerns of some in Congress with respect to these particular agreements. In our view, the time has now come to finalize them and to bring them to a vote in the House of Representatives.

Opening the doors of international trade to U.S. farms and businesses creates long term jobs. American agriculture and rural America particularly stand to gain if Congress approves pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. According to one analysis of the pending agreements, it is estimated that U.S. agricultural exports would gain more than \$815 million in Colombia, \$195 million in Panama, and \$1.8 billion in South Korea. And, according to USDA, each farm export dollar earned stimulated another \$1.65 in business activity, and agricultural exports generated 841,000 full time civilian jobs, which include 482,000 jobs in the non-farm sector.

We have urged the President to present these agreements to Congress as expeditiously as possible. Should they arrive in the House of Representatives, we urge swift review and consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. With respect, we are

Sincerely,



IKE SKELTON  
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN  
Member of Congress



SILVESTRE REYES  
Member of Congress