



U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington DC, 20508

March 24, 2009

Dear Ambassador Kirk,

We congratulate you on your recent confirmation as U.S. Trade Representative and welcome your commitment to take a fresh approach to US trade policy. We applaud President Obama's leadership in identifying the shortcomings of our current trade policy, and calling for long-overdue reform. Trade done the right way can foster development and economic growth while also protecting workers and the environment both in the United States and abroad.

We now have a unique opportunity to ensure that our trade agreements support our broader goals and values of creating good jobs, spurring sustainable development, and protecting the environment and our natural resources. However, we do not believe that the pending bilateral trade agreements with Panama, Colombia, and South Korea, as currently negotiated, are such agreements.

While many important changes were made to our trade policy as part of a bipartisan compromise on May 10, 2007, the compromise did not resolve all of our concerns with regard to those modified chapters. Additionally, several issues in other chapters were simply left unaddressed. Thus, we urge you to not bring any of the pending trade agreements to Congress, or negotiate new ones, until a comprehensive review of the impacts of our current trade model on development, workers rights and the environment have been conducted and any necessary changes made.

We look forward to working with your administration to ensure that our country's trades policies live up to the important standards you have outlined, where communities, workers and the environment are respected and protected.