

## **Global Leaders on the U.S. – Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement**

“If the U.S. turns its back on its friends in Colombia, this will set back our cause far more than any Latin American dictator could hope to achieve.”

*- Hon. Stephen Harper (Prime Minister of Canada), from a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, September 25, 2007.*

“It would send an important signal reflecting the commitment that we all have everything in the commercial integration of our hemisphere. We entreat you, therefore to do everything in your power to ensure that Colombia, Panama, and Peru will soon be able to enjoy the benefits of a full effective Free Trade Agreement with the United States.”

*- Hon. Elias Antonio Saca (President of El Salvador), Hon. Maniel Zelaya (President of Honduras), Hon. Daneil Ortega Saavedra (President of Nicaragua), and Hon. Oscar Berger (President of Guatemala), in a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, October 3, 2007.*

“With humility and profound respect, I wish to underscore the importance of Congressional ratification of these Agreements, for I believe that they will not only benefit considerably the Latin American nations in question, but also the United States, which will be able to derive significant advantages in terms of commercial consumption and market expansion.”

*- Hon. Oscar Arias (President of Costa Rica),*

*from a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, October 10, 2007.*

“I believe that the entry in force of these agreements [Colombia, Panama, and Peru] would be of the greatest benefit not only to those countries but also to the United States and, in general, to relations between your country and Latin America. However, the ratification of the agreements would send an important signal of the commitment that we all share with respect to commercial integration and the development of our hemisphere. I respectfully urge you, therefore, to do everything in your power to ensure that this occurs.”

*- Hon. Calderon Hinojosa, President of the United Mexican States,*

*from a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, October 15, 2007*

“... I am certain that the respective approvals by the Congress of your country of the Free Trade Agreements between the United States and Peru, Panama, and Colombia... will benefit those countries as well as the rest of the American continent, whose common aspiration is to advance along the path of economic and social development in peace, freedom, and democracy. These approvals will also be beneficial for the relation existing between the United States and Latin America, since they will stimulate trade and exchanges, as well as the global economic and political relations.”

*- Hon. Michelle Bachelet Jeria (President of Chile),*

*from a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, April 23, 2007.*

“I am, however, sending you an expression of hope for a positive early decision on the U.S. – Colombia FTA. I am doing this in the spirit of the transatlantic partnership and of our overriding shared objective of promoting stability, democracy and growth wherever we can in Latin America. I personally hope that Alvaro Uribe and his Government’s ambitious project for Colombia may succeed.”

*- Hon. Peter Mandelson (European Union Commissioner),*

*from a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, February 5, 2008.*