

ASOCOL
Association for the Sovereignty of Colombia
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May 9, 2011

Senator Max Baucus, *Chairman*
Senator John Kerry
Committee on Finance
United States Senate

Dear Senators Baucus and Kerry:

The Association for the Sovereignty of Colombia urges you to reconsider your support for the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. This agreement would have a negative impact on American workers.

American workers are hard-hit by unemployment and decreasing wage levels. As a result of this treaty American workers would be under pressure to accept even lower wages. American workers would be exposed to competition with a labor market that is notorious for its extensive labor and human rights violations. This situation will not change because of unverifiable promises for change made by the Colombian government. For U.S. workers struggling for a living wage, the FTA with Colombia would be a setback in that struggle.

The FTA with Colombia will severely damage Colombia's agriculture and Colombia's ability to feed its own people much as it happened after a free trade agreement was signed with Haiti. This is what former President Bill Clinton said at a Senate hearing in 2010 regarding the impact in Haiti of the free trade policies that became a hallmark of his presidency. "It may have been good for some of my farmers in Arkansas, but it has not worked. It was a mistake," Clinton said. "I had to live everyday with the consequences of the loss of capacity to produce a rice crop in Haiti to feed those people because of what I did; nobody else."

This agreement would benefit neither the average Colombian nor the average American. We urge you to reconsider your position and withdraw your support for the U.S-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Gonzalez
for the Association for the Sovereignty of Colombia

