

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

May 4, 2011

The Honorable Max Baucus
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus:

On February 9, 2011, I testified before the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives that the President had directed me to intensify engagement with Colombia to resolve the outstanding issues related to the United States – Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (the “Agreement”) as quickly as possible this year. In the following days, we sent a delegation to Colombia to meet with a wide range of stakeholders and secure the most updated information on a number of issues. Thereafter, we engaged in high-level discussions with the Colombian Government on multiple occasions.

As a result of this engagement, President Obama and President Santos announced on April 7 an ambitious and comprehensive Action Plan Related to Labor Rights. The plan includes major, swift and concrete steps Colombia will take to address the protection of internationally recognized labor rights, the prevention of violence against labor leaders, and the prosecution of perpetrators of such violence.

As part of the Action Plan, the Colombian Government agreed to take a series of initial significant actions by April 22. We have reviewed the actions Colombia has taken and believe that they are a positive demonstration of Colombia’s commitment to addressing the issues the Obama Administration identified. While Colombia still has important work to accomplish to address the objectives of the Action Plan before the President will formally submit this Agreement to Congress for consideration, we have determined that Colombia has taken the steps necessary, consistent with the April 22 milestones, to move to the next stage in the process. Accordingly, my office is prepared to begin technical discussions with Members of Congress on the draft implementing bill and draft Statement of Administrative Action.

We hope our discussions to review these documents, and similar documents for the Korea and Panama agreements, can commence without delay so that we can work together to bring the benefits of this Agreement home to American businesses, farmers, ranchers and workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Kirk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ambassador Ron Kirk

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

May 4, 2011

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

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Ambassador Ron Kirk

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508
May 4, 2011

The Honorable Dave Camp
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Camp:

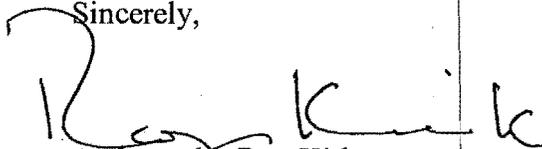
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Ambassador Ron Kirk

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508
May 4, 2011

The Honorable Sander Levin
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Levin:

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Ambassador Ron Kirk