

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Speaker Pelosi:


As members of the Washington State delegation, we urge you to reconsider tomorrow's vote to delay consideration of the Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and instead bring it before the House under regular order.


Free trade is critical to our state's economy and workers. We represent the most trade-dependent state in the nation. In fact, one out of three jobs in Washington State is connected to trade, and we export more than \$61 billion in goods and services annually. Delaying free trade agreements signals to our allies that America is closed for trade, and encourages our rivals to exploit new markets. This is unequivocally the wrong message to send in this time of economic uncertainty.

We understand there are questions that have been raised about the Colombia FTA, and many members of the Washington delegation share those concerns. But we believe those concerns should be discussed on the House floor as part of a debate. We urge you to honor the rules of consideration this chamber agreed to when it approved trade promotion authority, and permit us to have a real policy discussion about a measure important to our state's and our nation's economy.

Sincerely,


DOC HASTINGS
Member of Congress


CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress


DAVE REICHERT
Member of Congress