

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2008

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

It is imperative that you permit the House of Representatives to consider pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Korea before Congress adjourns for the year. Opening new markets through trade is essential to growing our economy, creating jobs, and strengthening diplomatic ties with strategic allies. It is especially important as our nation continues to experience this period of economic turmoil and job growth slows in some parts of the country.

Furthermore, enacting these agreements is critical to maintaining America's competitiveness in an increasingly global economy. We cannot afford to let these free trade agreements languish – and thereby deny American businesses new opportunities to export more goods and services and create more jobs– while competitors like China and the European Union aggressively knock down barriers to trade.

Our state is the most trade-dependent in the nation, where one out of three jobs is connected to trade and more than \$61 billion in goods and services is exported annually. By implementing these free trade agreements, we will level the playing field and open new markets not just for major employers like Boeing, Microsoft, and Starbucks, but also for thousands of Washington small businesses, cherry and potato farmers, and wine makers.

We are not asking that you declare your support for the pending trade agreements, only that you will permit the House to have a real policy discussion about them under the rules of consideration this chamber agreed to when it approved trade promotion authority. Trade is too important to our state's employers and workers to risk further delaying consideration of the Colombia, Panama, and Korea FTAs.

Sincerely,



DOC HASTINGS
Member of Congress



CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress



DAVE REICHERT
Member of Congress