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# Congress of the United States

## U.S. House of Representatives

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May 10, 2007

The Honorable Susan C. Schwab  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

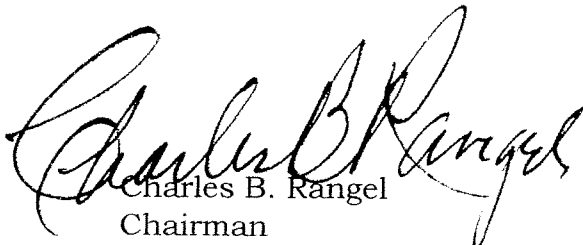
Dear Ambassador Schwab:

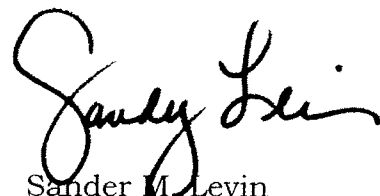
We have reached an agreement on the terms of the FTA for Peru and Panama, and those same terms must be incorporated into the Colombia FTA.

Colombia has special problems and considerations not presented in the context of the Peru and Panama FTAs, including the systemic, persistent violence against trade unionists and other human rights defenders, the related problem of impunity, and the role of the paramilitaries in perpetuating these crimes. Congress and the Administration must work with the Government of Colombia on these serious problems to determine what additional steps can be taken to allow for consideration of the FTA. Examples include a massive strengthening of the Attorney-General's Office to prosecute crimes against trade unionists and others, and to prosecute crimes by paramilitaries.

We are working to assess concrete proposals and undoubtedly will visit Colombia for first hand observations, as we explore a timely and effective solution.

Sincerely,

  
Charles B. Rangel  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways & Means

  
Sander M. Levin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Trade