



## THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

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### **Just the Facts: Ensuring a Vote on the U.S. - Colombia Free Trade Agreement**

*President Bush Sends Congress Legislation To Implement U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, Urges Bipartisan Support*

"For the last 16 months, we've worked with congressional leaders to set a schedule for the consideration of the Colombian free trade agreement. While we'll continue to work closely with Congress, the need for this agreement is too urgent – the stakes for our national security are too high – to allow this year to end without a vote. By statute, Congress has 90 legislative days to complete action once I transmit a bill implementing this agreement. Waiting any longer to send up the legislation would run the risk of Congress adjourning without the agreement ever getting voted on."

– **President George W. Bush, 4/7/08**

#### **For Over A Year, The President And His Administration Have Reached Out To The House And Senate Leadership To Build A Bipartisan Path For Consideration Of The Agreement:**

- **55:** The Administration led Congressional delegations to Colombia for 55 Members of Congress so they could see the country's progress first-hand.
- **144:** Administration officials have delivered remarks educating the public about the benefits of free trade to U.S. workers in at least 144 cities throughout the United States.
- **444:** Since August 2007, cabinet and sub-cabinet officials have held at least 444 free trade agreement-related meetings or phone calls with Members of Congress including:
  - **265:** At least 265 meetings with Democrats.
  - **179:** At least 179 meetings with Republicans.
  - **27:** At least 27 meetings or calls with Democratic Congressional leadership.
- **160:** USTR consulted with Congress 160 times in the run-up to and during negotiations as required by Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).

#### **The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement Has Received Overwhelming Support From Outside Sources:**

- **54:** There have been 54 former high-ranking government officials, both Democrats and Republicans, who have signed letters supporting the Colombia trade agreement along with

other free trade agreements.

- **100:** Newspapers have published approximately 100 op-eds and editorials favoring one or all of the pending agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea and the free trade agreement with Peru.

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