

CAL DOOLEY
PRESIDENT AND CEO



July 19, 2011

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) strongly supports the free trade agreements negotiated with South Korea, Colombia and Panama. It is our firm view that the agreements will create and maintain jobs in the United States and enhance America's economic security. ACC and its member companies are eager to see the free trade agreements approved and implemented, and we hope your Committees will quickly take the necessary steps to approve them before the August 2011 Congressional recess.

ACC represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. The U.S. business of chemistry is a \$720 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporting sectors, with over \$171 billion in exports in 2010, accounting for more than ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Two-way trade in chemicals to South Korea alone totaled \$8.5 billion in 2010; two-way chemical trade with Colombia and Panama totaled \$2.9 billion in the same year. U.S. chemistry employs 800,000 Americans, and each of those jobs generates another 5.5 jobs in the downstream industries that use and rely on chemistry. The fact is that American jobs depend on access to important markets – and the free trade agreements ensure that access, helps ensure that our industry can create and maintain jobs, and enhances the competitiveness and security of the U.S. economy.

The free trade agreements will address a number of tariff and non-tariff barriers our industry faces in each of these markets. ACC anticipates that those measures alone will have an important positive impact on the U.S. chemical industry. For example, under the Colombian agreement approximately 90% of all chemical tariffs will go to zero, a significant liberalization in trade flows. In addition, approval and implementation of the agreements will help U.S. companies address the market imbalance caused by the simple fact that other nations have concluded their own trade pacts with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. The global market for chemistry is intensely competitive – and the protections of a solid free trade agreement can mean the difference between market success and failure.

If we can provide any additional information on ACC's strong support for the South Korea, Colombia and Panama free trade agreements, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cal Dooley".

Cal Dooley

