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## **AACCLA Applauds Revival of U.S.-Colombia Trade Accord**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Association of American Chambers of Commerce (AACCLA) commended President Obama and President Santos for their bold leadership in reaching today's agreement on a path forward to Congressional approval of the long-pending U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.

“Today, the United States is one step closer to renewing its traditional role as a leader in enhancing regional competitiveness. The immediate result will be more jobs and economic growth in both the United States and Colombia. Looking forward, this bodes well for trade liberalization efforts hemisphere-wide,” said Juan Manuel Carreón, Chair of AACCLA. “We call on the White House and Congressional leadership to move forward with this agreement—and its counterpart agreement with Panama—as soon as possible.”

“The Colombian and Panamanian Trade Promotion Agreements are absolutely critical to U.S. national interests in the Western Hemisphere,” added Patrick Kilbride, Executive Vice-President of AACCLA. “Approval and implementation of these two agreements will clearly demonstrate to Latin Americans across the region that the United States continues to stand with them as they consolidate their economic freedoms, democracy, and human rights.”

For nearly a century, the American Chambers of Commerce (AmChams) have been the most influential voice of U.S. business in Latin America and the Caribbean. Today, joined together in the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America, these 23 AmChams represent more than 20,000 companies and over 80% of U.S. investment in the region.

Acting in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce — the world's largest business federation – AACCLA has become the premier advocate for U.S. business in the Americas. AACCLA's mission is to promote trade and investment between the United States and the countries of the region through free trade, free markets, and free enterprise.

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