



October 4, 2010

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dave Camp
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Levin and Ranking Member Camp:

On behalf of the U.S. frozen food industry, the American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI) urges Congress to approve a two-year extension of the *Andean Trade Preference and Drug Enforcement Act* (ATPDEA), which is set to expire on December 31.

A timely extension of the ATPDEA will ensure that American frozen food producers continue to have access to vital supplies of fruits and vegetables that enable our industry to provide consumers with a wide array of healthy, affordable and convenient fruit and vegetable products year-round.

AFFI's more than 500 member companies are responsible for approximately 90 percent of the frozen food produced annually in the United States, valued at more than \$70 billion. Our members depend on the important market access afforded by the ATPDEA. For example, it is estimated that more than 90 percent of the frozen broccoli consumed in the U.S. is imported, with Ecuador being a primary supplier.

The ATPDEA has proven to be beneficial for our industry and has done much to strengthen the economies of Andean nations, as evidenced by a recent report prepared by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).¹ According to USTR, fruit and vegetable product imports from Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia have continued to increase year after year, a clear signal of the increasing confidence in, and reliance upon, these sources by U.S. industry and retailers.

¹ Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. *Fifth Report to Congress on the Operation of the Andean Trade Preference Act as Amended*. <http://www.ustr.gov/node/5979> (last accessed September 28, 2010)

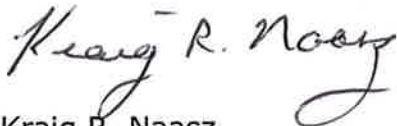
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Should the ATPDEA expire, the resulting increased import tariffs on Andean fruit and vegetable products—frozen broccoli, in particular—would have a crippling effect across the U.S. frozen food processing industry. American frozen food producers would be forced to scramble for new sources of product that would likely be more expensive and less reliable, with added costs potentially passed onto consumers. At a time of great economic turmoil, American consumers should not face possible price increases at the grocery store.

The ATPDEA has proven to be a model trade agreement that has greatly benefited American consumers and industry, while doing much to help spur economic activity in Andean partner nations and reduce illicit activities tied to the drug trade. Given the two-way trade benefits the ATPDEA has helped foster, AFFI urges you to approve a two-year extension of the agreement.

Please contact AFFI Manager of Legislative Affairs Thomas Bradshaw at (703) 821-0770 or tbradshaw@affi.com should you, or your staff, have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Kraig R. Naasz
President and CEO

cc: Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader John Boehner
Ambassador Ron Kirk