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CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

1102 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3625

Washington, DC 20515-6748

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

October 22, 2008

The Honorable Susan C. Schwab
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Schwab:

Last year, the Congress approved the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (the "US-Peru FTA") on a bipartisan basis because important improvements were made to key chapters of the agreement. We look forward to that agreement entering into force. At the same time, we understand that Peru still needs to make changes to its domestic laws and regulations to implement fully its international obligations.

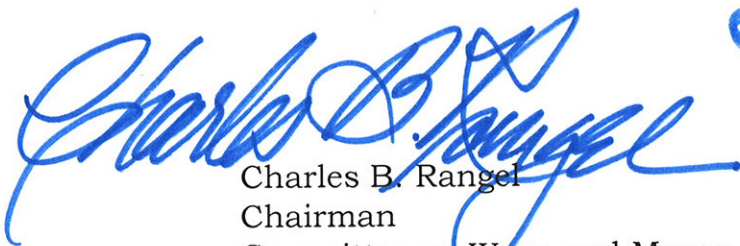
The United States is serious about and committed to the strict adherence and enforcement of each provision of its trade agreements. This is a commitment that is transferred from one Administration to another, and as such we feel strongly that no arbitrary deadline exists to bring Peru into full compliance.

We understand that several of the outstanding implementation issues relate to Peru's commitments regarding the treatment of pharmaceutical products – one focus of the changes contained in the May 10 Agreement. As you know, we fully and actively support strong intellectual property rights overseas, including in the pharmaceutical sector. We believe that the May 10 changes will both maintain strong and effective intellectual property rights to encourage innovation, and will provide access to medicines in developing countries like Peru. Importantly, the May 10 changes achieve both of these objectives. Accordingly, it is important that the intellectual property obligations, including the May 10 changes, be fully implemented before the FTA enters into force.


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We appreciate the efforts you and your staff have made in this process and urge you to continue to insist on Peru's complete implementation of those obligations that do not have a delayed implementation date.

Sincerely,



Charles B. Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means



Sander M. Levin
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways and Means