

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 16, 2015

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

We write to encourage the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to take all necessary actions with the Republic of Colombia for its failure to honor its international trade commitments, particularly with regards to the importation of heavy-duty commercial vehicles.

As you may know, the Colombian truck market is one of the few in the world dominated by American products. In 2012, American brands sold, approximately, 12,000 heavy-duty trucks in Colombia at an average price of nearly \$100,000. In April of 2013, without any public notice or comment and at the behest of a politically vocal and occasionally violent interest group, the Colombian government changed the rules by which new trucks can be registered. The buyers of new trucks must first purchase a second, old truck and scrap it before they can register and use their new capital purchase. In response to this counterproductive policy, the truck market in Colombia has shrunk by nearly 70%. Hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of truck exports have fallen victim to Colombia's scrapping rule. Surely this behavior contradicts both the letter and spirit of Colombia's trade obligations to the United States and the World Trade Organization.

In the two years since the draconian truck scrapping and registration policies were enacted, the US Government has engaged the Colombians with multiple rounds of high-level dialogue. Regrettably, the discussions have not persuaded the government in Bogota to amend its procedures. Colombian pledges of remedial action are quickly forgotten and exports of American trucks remain hobbled. In fact, the Colombian government recently doubled-down on its intransigence, pledging in writing to keep the offending policies in place in order to settle a local strike.

Entry into trade agreements with the United States, such as the US-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, is the privilege of those nations which abide by the rules of the international system. Permitting Colombia to violate its commitments without consequence would establish a terrible precedent. The value of agreements negotiated with the United States would be diminished. And the case for enhancing the President's authority to negotiate new trade pacts would be undercut.

We encourage you to exercise America's prerogatives within the terms of the free trade agreement and take all necessary actions with Colombia until it liberalizes the trade in heavy-duty commercial vehicles. America's truck manufacturers and the integrity of the international system deserve nothing less.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



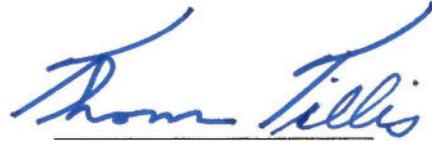
U.S. Senator Rob Portman



U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown



U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin



U.S. Senator Thom Tillis



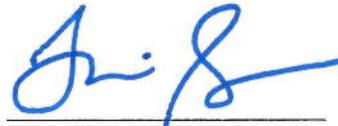
U.S. Senator Richard Burr



U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski



U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey Jr.



U.S. Senator Tim Scott



U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson



U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham