

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

## **Support the Peru Trade Agreement: A Real Win for the Environment**

Dear Democratic Colleague:

In the coming weeks, Congress will begin consideration of a trade agreement with Peru. After years of fighting for a better trade policy, Democrats have finally managed to incorporate fully-enforceable environmental standards into the core text of trade agreements. Democrats have long believed that trade should raise the bar for the environment and the U.S.-Peru trade agreement does just that. Passing this agreement will yield significant on-the-ground improvements for Peru's environment and ensure that trade raises environmental standards in both countries.

Peru lies in the heart of the Tropical Andes, one of the most biologically rich and diverse eco-regions in the world. Unfortunately, its irreplaceable plant and animal communities are under severe threat from illegal logging and other resource extraction industries.

The U.S.-Peru trade agreement ensures that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive and that natural resources are utilized in accordance with the overall objectives of sustainable development. As such, the agreement requires the effective enforcement of key Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and prohibits either country from weakening its environmental laws to attract trade or investment.

The agreement also includes an unprecedented annex designed to address illegal logging and forest sector governance. This annex requires very specific legal and institutional reforms of Peru's forest sector laws and enforcement mechanisms. It gives the United States the ability to audit Peru's compliance and block the import of any illegally harvested wood products. This is the first time that a trade agreement has been used to assist a foreign government with the sustainable management of its natural resources, hold it accountable for doing so, and provide the U.S. government with strong new tools to block environmentally-harmful illegal trade.

As the Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, Environmental Investigation Agency, Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sierra Club said in a joint statement on June 26<sup>th</sup>, "The environmental provisions included in the final text of the Peru Free Trade Agreement mark a significant step forward, and we commend the Democratic leadership for this achievement."

I urge your support for this important, pro-environment agreement and look forward to working with you to ensure that our trade policy continues to promote even stronger levels of environmental protection. Feel free to contact me or Judah Ariel on my staff with any questions.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress