

ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
13TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES
SOCIAL SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3813

10/29/2007

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
423 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-6111
FAX: (202) 226-0611

DISTRICT OFFICES:
7219 FRANKFORD AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19135
TEL: (215) 335-3355
FAX: (215) 333-4508

706 WEST AVENUE
JENKINTOWN, PA 19046
TEL: (215) 517-6572
FAX: (215) 517-6575

www.house.gov/schwartz

**ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SAY
PERU FTA SETS U.S. TRADE POLICY ON "NEW PATH"**

Dear Democratic Colleague:

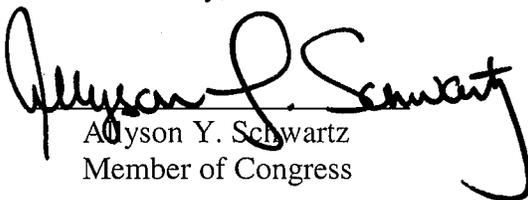
On May 10, 2007, House Democrats achieved an historic agreement. This agreement required that the Peru free trade agreement ("FTA") be renegotiated to include critical new environmental provisions. The new provisions:

- require Peru to adopt, maintain, and enforce obligations under seven common multilateral environmental agreements;
- specify numerous concrete steps that Peru must take to curb illegal logging and impose a clear schedule for doing so; and
- give the United States an unprecedented set of enforcement tools to ensure that Peru meets its environmental commitments.

Defenders of Wildlife, the Environmental Investigation Agency ("EIA") and the Natural Resources Defense Fund ("NRDC") recently wrote a letter commending House Democrats on these changes, saying that these changes "mark a significant step forward" and set U.S. trade policy on a "new path." A copy of this letter is enclosed.

I look forward to your support on the Peru FTA and to helping move U.S. trade policy down this important new path.

Sincerely,



Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McCrery
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139-E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1104 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Wally Herger
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139-E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2007

Re: U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement

Dear Sirs,

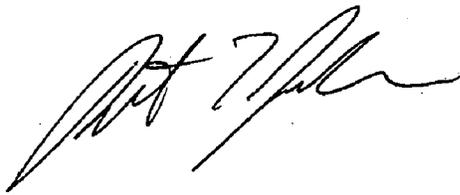
We are writing on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Investigation Agency and Defenders of Wildlife concerning the environmental provisions of the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. In June, the Peru agreement was renegotiated to include new measures to protect workers and the environment. In our view, the changes mark a significant step forward for which the Committee is to be commended.

The Annex on Forest Sector Governance, in particular, represents a striking break from the environmental provisions of previous trade agreements. Our organizations have worked for years to halt illegal logging and its associated trade because of the damage it does to rainforests and local communities. For the first time in a U.S. bilateral trade agreement, this Annex addresses the environmental impacts of illegal logging by establishing specific and enforceable requirements to prevent the trade in illegally sourced timber products. If properly implemented, these provisions could improve forestry governance, protect the rights of indigenous peoples and help combat the scourge of forced labor that currently accompanies trade in timber products from Peru. These provisions could also provide a new model for ensuring that trade agreements promote legitimate trade without encouraging the illegal and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

The challenges now before Congress are to ensure (1) that these provisions translate into real benefits for the environment, and (2) that future agreements apply this new approach to other high-impact natural resource extraction sectors, such as hydrocarbon extraction and mining.

On the first point, transparent monitoring and evaluation are essential, as is a commitment to taking appropriate measures if sufficient improvements do not occur. Reports to Congress should not only identify progress toward implementing the requirements of the Annex, but also evaluate whether illegal logging has in fact diminished in Peru. Congress should also ensure that U.S. agencies are allocated both the financial and personnel resources for effective implementation of the Annex.

Second, while concerns remain regarding the overall environmental impacts of trade agreements, the Forest Governance Annex demonstrates that trade agreements can begin to address these concerns on a sector by sector basis. We support this approach and are hopeful that Congress will expand upon this new path as it establishes trade policy moving forward.



Peter Jenkins
Director, International Programs
Defenders of Wildlife



Alexander von Bismarck
Director of Campaigns
Environmental Investigation Agency



Ari Hershowitz
Director, Latin American Biogems Project
Natural Resources Defense Council

Cc: Members, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means