

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

April 6, 2006

The Honorable Robert J. Portman  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement (FTA). As you know, time is running short to develop solutions to address outstanding concerns and have the agreement approved by Congress this year. The 90-day period for congressional review expires today, and the Administration has stated that it expects to sign the agreement this week.

A key outstanding issue for us relates to labor standards. As noted in the recent U.S. State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practices, Peru is a nation with "serious problems" in a number of areas related to labor rights.

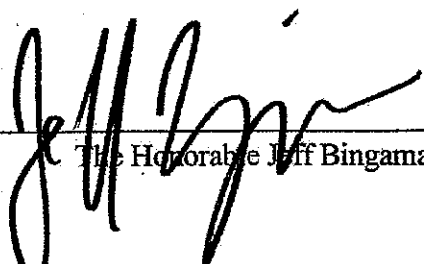
The easiest, most effective way to address the problems in Peru's labor laws that have been identified by the U.S. State Department and the International Labor Organization ("ILO") would be to accept President Toledo's offer to include in the FTA enforceable provisions requiring compliance with basic ILO standards. The agreement also could provide for a reasonable transition period for such compliance and substantial technical assistance.

If an approach that honors President Toledo's proposal is adopted, we would work with the Administration on a major aid package to ensure that Peru is able to implement both the overall agreement, and in particular the commitments on compliance with basic ILO labor standards, in the most effective manner to ensure that the agreement brings broad based benefits to the people of Peru and the United States. Such a package would include bilateral aid, including funding for an ILO monitoring program comparable to the one implemented in Cambodia, and multilateral and regional aid, which could be developed in coordination with President Moreno at the Inter-American Development Bank and President Wolfowitz at the World Bank.

Finally, we note that negotiating such an agreement is fully consistent with negotiating guide posts set out in the Trade Act of 2002. Those guide posts have been applied as a floor rather than a ceiling. Basic labor standards should be no exception.

We look forward to working with you on this issue.

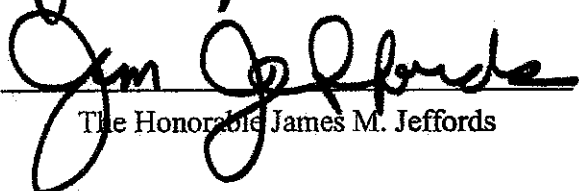
Sincerely,



The Honorable Jeff Bingaman



The Honorable Charles E. Rangel



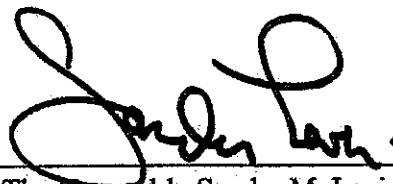
The Honorable James M. Jeffords



The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin



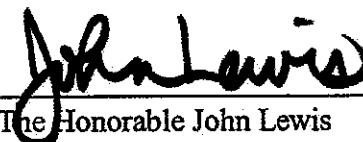
The Honorable Ron Wyden



The Honorable Sander M. Levin



The Honorable Charles E. Schumer



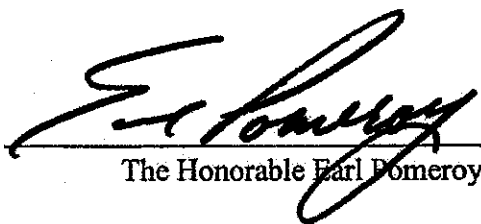
The Honorable John Lewis



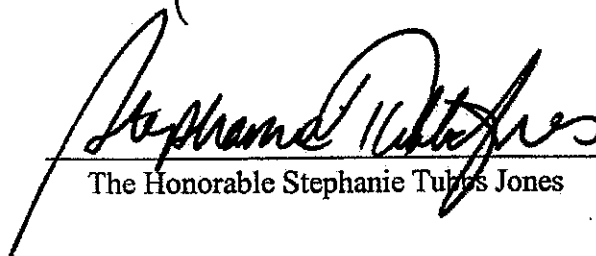
The Honorable Richard E. Neal



The Honorable Xavier Becerra



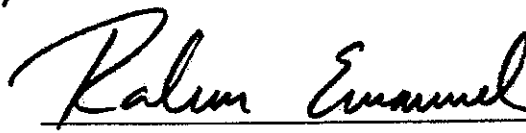
The Honorable Earl Pomeroy



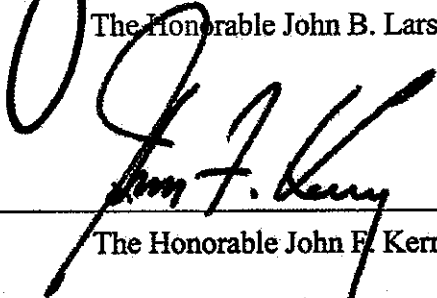
The Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones



The Honorable John B. Larson



The Honorable Rahm Emanuel



The Honorable John F. Kerry



The Honorable Mike Thompson