



NEWS RELEASE

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**FORMER U.S. CABINET OFFICIALS AND AMBASSADORS TO MEXICO
URGE SWIFT RESOLUTION TO CROSS-BORDER TRUCKING ISSUE**

The Alliance to Keep US Jobs applauds a letter issued today by a bipartisan group of former U.S. Cabinet members and U.S. Ambassadors to Mexico sent to President Barack Obama urging him to resolve the cross-border trucking dispute between the United States and Mexico as soon as possible.

The signatories to the letter – including former U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, former Ambassadors to Mexico James Jones, Jeffrey Davidow and Tony Garza, and former Commerce Secretaries Norman Mineta and Carlos Gutierrez – said that “without prompt resolution of this 14-year-old dispute our nation will needlessly suffer.”

Specifically, they said, “U.S. companies, farmers and workers will continue to be hit by Mexico’s \$2.4 billion of retaliatory tariffs on manufactured and agriculture goods – the last thing the United States needs as our unemployment rate approaches 10%.”

The Alliance to Keep U.S. Jobs – a group of more than 150 U.S. companies and associations concerned about the adverse impact to the U.S. economy stemming from a failure to resolve the longstanding trucking dispute – applauded the leadership of the former Ambassadors and senior government officials. “Every day this issue goes unresolved, more and more good paying American jobs are put in jeopardy,” said the Alliance’s Executive Director Steve Mulder. Mulder went on to state, “The administration has talked about finding solutions but now it’s time to put their words into action. We hope the President will take advantage of his upcoming meetings in Mexico and urge a swift resolution.”

One of the Alliance's members, Appleton Papers (Appleton, Wis.) is the biggest supplier of carbonless paper to Mexico. Kent Willetts, vice president of marketing and strategy for Appleton Papers said the 10 percent tariffs on U.S. carbonless paper sold into Mexico has put Appleton at a significant competitive disadvantage because carbonless products from Asia and Europe are not subject to such a duty.

Willetts said, "Given the state of the U.S. economy, these tariffs come at the worst possible time for our company and thousands of our employees." He added, "Appleton is a 100% employee-owned company that has a very dedicated, hardworking workforce. Together, we are doing everything we can to remain competitive in these challenging economic times. But these tariffs are causing us to reduce work hours, and wages and jobs for our employees. Over the long term the impact of the tariffs will erode the value of our company stock in which most of our employees have invested for their retirement."

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