



NEWS RELEASE

August 7, 2009

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For Immediate Release

**150 US BUSINESS INTERESTS URGE THE ADMINISTRATION TO KEEP FOCUSED ON
SAVING US JOBS AND RESOLVING US-MEXICO TRUCKING DISPUTE DURING
UPCOMING HEMISPHERIC SUMMIT**

Yesterday, senior US officials indicated that the Obama Administration is focused on moving toward resolution of the long-standing dispute over cross-border trucking during the President's upcoming meetings in Mexico. During a White House briefing, National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs Mike Froman indicated that the Administration was "quite focused" on this issue and expects it to be raised in meetings this weekend between President Obama and Mexican President Calderon during a summit of leaders of the western hemisphere. The Alliance to Keep US Jobs applauds this commitment and strongly urges the President to take advantage of this meeting to quickly resolve a situation that threatens U.S. companies, their workers and their communities.

Said Alliance spokesman Steve Mulder, "The bottom line is many thousands of good paying U.S. jobs are in jeopardy every day this dispute remains unresolved. Companies are doing all they can to address the most challenging economic conditions we have seen in decades and these tariffs come at the worst possible time for them. Now is not the time America can afford to lose more jobs over politics in Washington."

Ken Baric, Director of Federal Affairs of the Western Growers Association, also urged action: "On the U.S. side, there seems to be a lack of urgency to solve this." Members of the Western Growers Association, including grape, pear, cherry and lettuce growers, have all been hurt by the tariffs.

The Alliance to Keep US Jobs is a coalition of 150 U.S. companies and associations that are concerned about the adverse impact to the U.S. economy stemming from a failure to resolve the longstanding trucking dispute. Members of the Alliance represent many thousands of U.S. workers that are employed by companies and industries that are subject to tariffs on their products shipped to Mexico. The tariffs were imposed in March following the U.S. Congress' termination of a U.S. pilot cross-border trucking program, an act that put the United States in violation of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The tariffs total \$2.4 billion and target a broad range of U.S. products from carbonless paper to cosmetics and numerous agricultural products.

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