

August 3, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

As former U.S. Trade Representatives, Secretaries of Commerce, and Ambassadors to Mexico, we write to urge you to resolve the cross-border trucking dispute between the United States and Mexico as soon as possible.

We appreciate the commitment that you made several months ago to support legislation to fulfill U.S. trucking obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). We are concerned that without prompt resolution of this 14-year-old dispute our nation will needlessly suffer:

- 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%.
- Our nation's credibility with our global trade partners will continue to be damaged, making it harder to open more markets to U.S. goods and services
- Stalling tactics will encourage others to delay implementing their agreements.

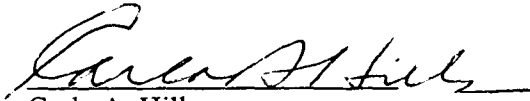
The United States unequivocally promised in the NAFTA to let Mexican and U.S. trucks deliver international goods throughout each other's countries, eliminating the needless cargo transfers now required. Implementing this commitment now will save our businesses and consumers hundreds of millions of dollars a year, and help make North American goods more competitive.

Those who urge that we breach our commitment have used spurious claims regarding the safety of Mexico's long-haul trucks. Yet, Mexico has done everything possible to demonstrate the safety of its fleets, including accepting safety standards that neither Canadian nor U.S. trucks are required to meet under the NAFTA and agreeing to a stringent demonstration program. Importantly, an interim report on that program by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Inspector General found that Mexican trucks not only were safe but that they actually were safer than their U.S. counterparts.

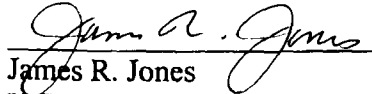
Despite all of this, funds for the demonstration program were killed in Congress, effectively ending U.S. efforts to keep its NAFTA commitment and prompting Mexico's retaliation.

We hope that you will take steps now to implement fully the unequivocal promise that our Government made in the NAFTA in 1995.

Respectfully,



Carla A. Hills  
U.S. Trade Representative  
1989-1993



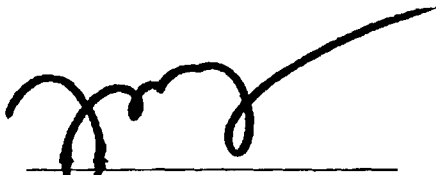
James R. Jones  
U.S. Ambassador to Mexico  
1993-1997



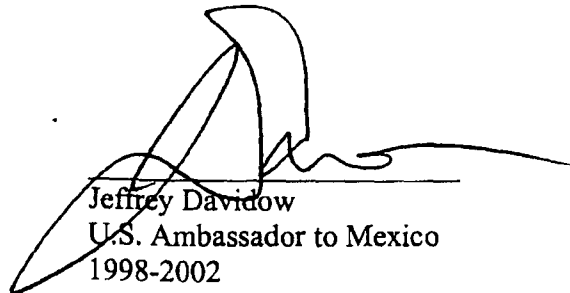
Norman Y. Mineta  
Secretary of Commerce  
2000-2001



Carlos M. Gutierrez  
Secretary of Commerce  
2005-2009



Tony Garza  
U.S. Ambassador to Mexico  
2002-2009



Jeffrey Davidow  
U.S. Ambassador to Mexico  
1998-2002