



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: October 2, 2008

STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN ELIOT ENGEL LAUDING SENATE PASSAGE OF ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE EXTENSION BILL

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, the Senate passed a bill extending the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) for Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia. ATPDEA will be extended for one year for Peru and Colombia, for one year for Ecuador (with a review after 6 months), and for 6 months for Bolivia (with preferences terminating, unless the US President finds Bolivia in compliance with ATPDEA regulations and grants the country an additional 6 month extension).

Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-NY) – Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere and a major proponent for long-term ATPDEA extension – issued the following statement regarding the Senate action:

“I commend the Senate for passing legislation that would extend the Andean trade preferences (ATPDEA) for Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia, and I urge my colleagues in the House to quickly pass the Senate bill. ATPDEA has been enormously successful, having created hundreds of thousands of jobs for impoverished people in the Andean region, while also curbing drug production. At the same time, every job created through ATPDEA is another potential illegal immigrant remaining in his or her home country.

“Throughout the 110th Congress, I have argued that a long-term extension of ATPDEA is preferable to one short-term extension after another. A long-term extension of ATPDEA would help create a more stable and reliable investment climate, which in turn would generate more jobs in the politically and economically fragile Andes. While I would have preferred a longer term extension of ATPDEA, today’s action is a positive step forward for both the United States and the citizens of the Andean region.”