

May 7th, 2013



The Honorable Joe Garcia

Washington, D.C. 20508

RE: Please Support Continued Uninterrupted Trade with Ecuador

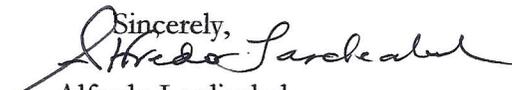
Dear Mr. Garcia;

It was nice seeing you at the Miami Dade College Commencement this past May 4th where my niece was graduating. I can tell that you care about your community and you appreciate people such as yourself who have worked hard to get where they are.

I write to ask for your support for the renewal of the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) benefits for Ecuador beyond July 2013. My company, **MIC Food Division**, imports frozen plantain and yucca products. As such, MIC Foods benefits from duty free access for our products originating in Ecuador. Our company imports 35% of the products we sell from Ecuador and our products are sold in 40 states. Further, we employ 20 employees, and indirectly employ hundreds of people including drivers, warehouse personnel, and restaurant employees. Our products are chosen by U.S. consumers because of their high quality and competitive price.

The ATPDEA is essential to our products' value. Without it, we would not be able to import over 9 million pounds of plantain and yucca products per year. Further, small and large businesses like me in the United States and Ecuador would suffer losses. Ecuador is one of the largest, and most competitive suppliers of plantains into the United States, and thousands of jobs in Ecuador would be threatened making Ecuadorians vulnerable to the narcotics trade in the region. In addition to the economic and social benefits of ATPDEA in Ecuador and the United States, we believe Ecuador fulfills the ATPDEA eligibility criteria. Continuing the ATPDEA is a winning proposition for both countries.

As such, I urge your support for continued uninterrupted trade with Ecuador through the renewal of ATPDEA for Ecuador thus allowing additional time for the United States, Ecuador, and other countries to discuss a new alternative trade program. I also urge you to support renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for all eligible countries, including Ecuador. Although we do not view it as an alternative or replacement to ATPDEA, the GSP program provides important benefits to developing and least developed countries.

Sincerely,

Alfredo Lardizabal
CEO