



National Trade Advocate and Author John Manzella Encourages the New Obama Administration to Include Trade in the Proposed Stimulus Package



Appearing on the Neal Asbury Show on WZAB-AM, John Manzella, a public affairs consultant and world-recognized author and speaker on international trade and policy, expressed dismay that while dozens of initiatives are being proposed as part of an estimated \$800 billion Obama stimulus package, trade is being virtually ignored.

"One of the most prudent strategies the U.S. can employ to generate growth and create jobs is to establish new free trade agreements and ratify those pending so small and medium-size American exporters can better compete globally. Passing the Colombian Free Trade Agreement, for example, is

expected to generate an additional \$2.5 billion in U.S. gross domestic product; passing the South Korean Free Trade Agreement should generate another \$20 billion in new GDP," said Manzella, who will host the Manzella Trade Report on Neal Asbury's weekly WZAB-AM radio show.

"It's hard to justify holding up these accords, as well as the Panama Free Trade Agreement, since the cost to do so is ZERO," added Manzella. "There are more than 300 regional free trade agreements worldwide without U.S. participation. We only have free trade agreements with 16 countries. This puts U.S. exporters at a serious competitive disadvantage," he noted.

Manzella is not overly optimistic that trade will gain the attention it deserves from the new Congress, although President-elect Obama has made some promising proposed appointments at the USTR, Treasury Department and National Economic Council. One of the setbacks could occur among the 25 or so incoming members of Congress with anti-trade positions. This is in addition to 16 trade skeptics who were elected to Congress in November 2006.

Manzella said it's time unions stopped propagating the false notion

that free trade agreements are bad for America. However, to help those who do lose their jobs due to global competition and to boost the competitiveness of our labor force, Manzella suggested the new administration should put more money into education, retraining and life-long learning.

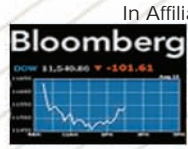
Trade related jobs pay much more than the average wage, globally engaged companies achieve higher levels of productivity and fail less often, and communities that host these companies benefit through a more stable workforce and stronger tax base. The benefits of international trade are enormous. But convincing the public and Members of Congress of this is a very difficult task, Manzella said.

"The incoming administration may be receptive to the voices of the nation's small and medium-size exporters who lack the clout and resources to lobby Congress, but who can play a critical role in the success of the stimulus package," concluded Manzella.

The Neal Asbury Show tackles key trade issues every Thursday from 11:00 AM until Noon on WZAB-AM 880. The show is streamed live on line at WWW.880THEBIZ.COM, which is affiliated with Bloomberg Radio and CNBC.



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