

Subject: Freshman Letter to President Obama **Supporting** Cross-Border Trucking with Mexico



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2011

Dear Freshman Colleague:

In the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the United States agreed to grant Mexican trucks access to U.S. highways in 2000. The Bush Administration began to make good on this commitment, starting a pilot program in 2007 to grant select Mexican trucks full access to U.S. highways. This program operated successfully, until it was terminated by Congress in the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

In response to the United States' failure to adhere to the provisions of the NAFTA agreement, beginning in March 2009, the Mexican government imposed retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports to Mexico. Since that time, U.S. exports into Mexico have faced additional tariffs of over \$4 billion. These tariffs hurt our exports to Mexico, our second-largest export market, which in turn cost us jobs here at home.

In the recent meeting between President Obama and Mexican President Felipe Calderón, President Obama pledged that the United States would begin taking the necessary steps to begin fulfilling our commitment to grant access to U.S. highways for Mexican trucks, but talk isn't good enough, action is required. Fulfilling this commitment is not only vital to our relationship with Mexico and our credibility in asking other nations to make good on their trade agreements, it is vital that the United States follows through on this commitment to Mexico for job creation here in America.

I respectfully ask that you join me in sending a letter to President Obama encouraging him to fulfill the United States' commitment to Mexico regarding access for Mexican trucks to U.S. highways. To sign onto this letter, please contact me by April 8.

Yours Respectfully,

/s/

FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO
Member of Congress

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Text of the Letter:

Dear President Obama:

As newly elected members of the House of Representatives, we are writing to express our support for fulfilling our international obligations by immediately complying with the trucking provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Fulfilling this commitment is not only important to our relationship with Mexico, our second-largest export market, but also to job creation in the United States. We further believe that compliance is entirely consistent with our shared goal of maintaining the safety of our highways.

As you know, as part of NAFTA, the United States agreed to give Mexican commercial trucks access to U.S. highways in 2000. However, because of our failure to fulfill this commitment, Mexico has imposed retaliatory tariffs that have amounted to over \$4 billion on a wide array of U.S. exports. These tariffs have hurt our exports to Mexico and have negatively impacted job creation in the United States. According to an estimate by the United States Chamber of Commerce, our failure to honor this trucking agreement has cost our country over 25,000 jobs due to lost exports.

Right now, millions of Americans are unemployed. To turn our economy around we must begin creating more jobs. Mexico has pledged to remove the jobs-destroying tariffs when the United States fulfills its commitment regarding access for Mexican trucks to U.S. highways. Thus, honoring our commitment will help us create jobs.

While we are pleased by the recent progress made in your meeting with Mexican President Felipe Calderón to resolve this issue, simply making progress in meetings is not enough. The United States must fulfill the commitment we have made and comply with the terms of NAFTA. How can the United States criticize our trading partners for failure to honor the terms of trade agreements when we are clearly doing so ourselves by failing to comply with the trucking provisions of the NAFTA agreement?

We ask that you work expeditiously to fulfill this commitment. Failure to do so will not only negatively impact our exports to Mexico and job creation in the United States, but damage our relationship with Mexico.

Sincerely,