

**THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON**

September 4, 2015

Mr. Thomas J. Donohue
President & CEO
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062

Dear Mr. Donohue,

Prior to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's mission to Panama and Colombia September 15-18, I want to thank you for your ongoing support in continuing to build our commercial and economic relationships with those two countries.

U.S. businesses seek trade and investment opportunities in stable and secure countries with strong rule of law. Colombia's advances toward a peace agreement with the FARC and Panama's continued economic growth will bolster both countries' long-term economic outlook and benefit the United States.

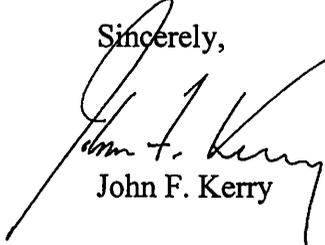
Earlier this year, I appointed Bernard Aronson as Special Envoy for the Colombian Peace Process to support the goal of reaching a just and lasting solution for Colombia that, in turn, will lead to greater prosperity for the Colombian people. The Chamber of Commerce can reinforce that message. U.S. businesses are poised to help Colombia capitalize on the economic benefits that stem from greatly improved security conditions. Panama is eager to take advantage of its status as a regional logistics hub, home to the world's second largest Free-Trade Zone and the Panama Canal.

I am especially pleased my personal representative, Ambassador David Thorne, will lead our participation in this mission. Ambassador Thorne has done terrific work developing what we call the "shared prosperity" agenda at the State Department, focusing not just on traditional economic diplomacy, but knitting economics into our broader foreign policy interests in critical countries like Panama and Colombia. Ambassador Thorne's March visit to Colombia to support the Pacific Alliance's economic integration efforts (of which Colombia is a member with Chile, Mexico, and Peru; Panama is seeking to join) underscored our commitment to fostering a favorable trade and investment climate in the Western Hemisphere. His expertise in business and familiarity with economic diplomacy will be a great asset to your mission.

I know the Chamber and its partners, the American Chambers of Commerce in Panama and Colombia, remain at the forefront of efforts to strengthen commercial ties between the United States and both countries. We expect robust participation in the September visit from U.S. companies interested in expanding trade and investing in the Panamanian and Colombian markets.

Thank you, as always, for all the good work the U.S. Chamber of Commerce does to advance the United States' economic and commercial relationships. I am confident this mission will be a great success. I look forward to creating opportunities for U.S. businesses and improving economic ties with countries and people around the world.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry