

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA) today issued the following statement on the Obama Administration’s announcement on advancements made in addressing labor rights issues in negotiations with Colombia on a free trade agreement:

“I commend the Obama Administration for working to create a path forward for a fair, just free-trade agreement with Colombia that creates American jobs and protects the safety and security of Colombian workers and human rights defenders. Our trade agreements must reflect our core labor values, and I am pleased that both President Obama and President Santos have made resolving these outstanding issues a priority and are committed to getting this important agreement right.

This represents important progress towards the development of a 21<sup>st</sup> century US-Colombia free trade agreement that creates strong economic ties with an important hemispheric ally, supports American workers, and strengthens the standards and protections for human rights and labor rights in Colombia.

I am encouraged by this significant progress and look forward to the timely implementation of these measures so that this agreement can move forward.”

Congressman Sam Farr served in the Peace Corps in Medellin, Colombia from 1964-66.

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