

Senate Finance Committee
Senator Max Baucus-Chairman
Ranking Member Charles Grassley

We are writing you on behalf of the United States-Brazil CEO Forum to urge passage of an extension of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program, as currently configured, before its expiration at the end of the year.

The U.S.-Brazil CEO Forum is a public-private partnership of leading American and Brazilian corporations engaged in dialogue to strengthen the economic and commercial ties between North and South America's leading economies. As business leaders representing a cross-section of industry in the Americas, we respectfully urge you to lead your colleagues in the Senate to pass an extension of the GSP program prior to adjournment.

For the past year, members of the Forum have worked with our respective governments to continue constructive dialogue across many fronts with the hope of increasing commerce. We believe the GSP program serves as an important and unique tool to promote U.S. economic relations with developing countries. It has been an important program for supporting increased economic growth within many Central and South American countries leading to increased procurement of U.S. goods and services.

The GSP program supports export performance that helps sustain numerous sectors in developing economies that would otherwise go to competitor countries. These exports, entering the U.S. duty-free, not only help us sustain trade and commercial relations with the developing countries, but also enable U.S. consumers and customers to acquire goods and services at cost-competitive prices. Without this useful trade tool, we are fearful that progress gained in economic and market development will be at risk. Strong trade benefits everyone.

We believe it is imperative for the Senate to join the House of Representatives in sending emerging economies a clear signal that the United States is supportive of their continued economic growth. There is strong support for a GSP extension throughout the business community. Members of the Forum want to play a constructive role in extending the program and look forward to supporting your efforts.



Tim Solso
Chairman US Section



Josué Christiano Gomes da Silva
Chairman Brazil Section