

Columbia University
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Jagdish Bhagwati
University Professor

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Mr. Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the window of opportunity for a robust deal on Doha Round is closing, with the United States now about to enter into an election mode, we make an appeal for Presidential leadership in the United States to put Doha into closure along with the three Free Trade Agreements that finally seem close to passage by bipartisan agreement.

The fear of the labour unions that trade with the poor countries produces poor in the rich countries is mistaken. The demand of the business lobbies that want ever more concessions from others is excessive. The contention of some experts that the gains from Doha are minuscule is flawed in neglecting the costs of the failure of Doha and the ensuing damage to the WTO. The retribution by a protectionist public is greatly exaggerated: many jobs today depend on both exports and imports and the polls reflect that.

President Obama: you have not failed to step up to the plate on issues like the repeal of the Don't Ask and Don't Tell policy in the armed forces. You can do so again to carry Doha past the finish line. You were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the multilateralism that you promised. You can earn it with leadership on Doha, a multilateral venture par excellence.

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Claude Barfield
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Herminio Blanco
Former Secretary of Commerce and Industry, Mexico

Hugh Corbet
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Vivek Dehejia

Carleton University, Canada

Barry Desker

NTU and Former Ambassador to Indonesia, Singapore

Elias Dinopoulos

University of Florida

Avinash Dixit

Princeton University

Peter Drysdale

Australian National University

Sebastian Edwards

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Simon Evenett

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Robert Feenstra

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Ross Garnaut

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Tatsuo Hatta

Osaka University and GRIPS

Mats Hellström

Former Minister of Foreign Trade, Sweden

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Ernesto Zedillo

Yale University and Former President of Mexico