



THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

April 20, 2018

The Honorable Tom Rice  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rice:

Thank you for your letter regarding Colombia's accession to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the remaining issues of concern.

I support the OECD's high standards for accession, including with regard to Colombia. These standards – including likemindedness, commitment to democracy, and economic openness and governance – ensure that the United States, its workers, and its businesses benefit from principles and practices that make markets fairer and more efficient. I am committed to ensuring that Colombia meets these standards before they join the OECD in order to ensure equal opportunities and fair treatment for American workers and businesses.

USTR is closely monitoring Colombia's actions affecting issues of concern to U.S. stakeholders, including Colombia's pharmaceutical measures, the scrappage policy for registration of heavy trucks, and passage of amendments to Colombia's copyright law. As you know, USTR professional staff met with Trade Minister Gutierrez and Finance Minister Cardenas on March 8 and reiterated the steps Colombia should take to gain U.S. support on closing the OECD Trade Committee's review of Colombia.

Thank you for your interest in this issue and please reach out if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely yours,

Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative