

## SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Representative {name},

I urge your opposition to the Columbia Free Trade Agreement. This bill is another unfair trade deal without worker's rights that would leave workers here and abroad further behind.

Columbia is the most dangerous place on the globe to fight for workers' rights. The murder of trade unionists and the lack of prosecution or investigation of these crimes continue, and the Columbian government is still doing little to address this ongoing threat to workers and workers rights. The national AFL CIO's recent study, *Workers Rights: Violence and Impunity in Columbia*, sheds more light on these alarming conditions than the Columbian government has reported in the past.

According to the study, in 2007 alone, 38 trade unionists were murdered and 201 death threats were made, creating a climate of fear that makes it impossible for them to exercise their right to organize, bargain collectively, go on strike or criticize the government. In 2006 there were 78 killings, and between 1994 and 2006 there were 1,165 documented murders with only 56 perpetrators brought to trail and only 14 sentenced.

No trade agreement with Columbia should be considered until this country meets an established set of human rights benchmarks, labor laws and workers rights.

Please reject this unwise trade agreement and instead focus on the most important threat to Ohio and U.S. jobs --- the growing trade deficit with China.

Sincerely {Your name}