

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 28, 2007

His Excellency F. Tomás Dueñas
The Ambassador of Costa Rica
Embassy of Costa Rica
2114 S Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The people of the United States appreciate that Costa Rica is the oldest democracy in Latin America, and are proud of the warm and close relationship that our two countries have always had. The United States wants to maintain that very special relationship that has existed for so many years.

The United States supports the democratic processes that take place in free countries like Costa Rica. The decision as to whether or not Costa Rica joins CAFTA and votes yes or no on their referendum on October 7 is the decision of the people of Costa Rica. A key aspect of democracies is that they respect the electoral outcomes reached by other democracies.

We understand that it has been asserted by some that there is a link between the referendum vote and Costa Rica's continued participation in the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). We are not aware of any connection between the two. Participation in CBI is not conditioned on a country's decision to approve or reject a free trade agreement with the United States, and we do not support such a linkage.

Sincerely,



Harry Reid
U.S. Senate Majority Leader


Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives