



Congresswoman Betty Sutton

Representing Ohio's Thirteenth Congressional District

For Immediate Release
April 6, 2011

Contact: Christine Corcoran
(202) 225-3401
Christine.Corcoran@mail.house.gov

Rep. Sutton Statement on the Administration's Announcement on the Colombia Trade Deal

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Betty Sutton (D-OH) released the following statement on the announcement made by President Obama on the Colombia trade agreement:

“While Congress is focused on preventing a government shutdown, it is disconcerting that the White House would move forward on this flawed deal. We must not ignore the continued violence against Colombian workers. Last year fifty-one trade unionists were killed. If fifty-one corporate CEOs had been murdered, I do not think we would see a trade deal with Colombia being pursued. Are the lives of the trade unionists any less valuable? As long as violence against Colombian workers and human rights advocates continues to persist, and until measurable progress is made to safeguard basic human and worker rights, this agreement should not move forward.”

“With so many families struggling in Ohio and across our country, we must focus our efforts on creating and protecting jobs here at home, not on passing more bad trade deals that leave our workers at an unfair disadvantage. This deal will force our workers into competition with Colombian workers who must work for pitiful wages since they do not have the right to organize without fear of violence and intimidation. I remain strongly opposed to any and all trade agreements with countries that condone violence against workers or place American workers and businesses at an unfair disadvantage. The proposed Colombia deal does both. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing it.”