



## **PRESS RELEASE**

The American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago (AmCham T&T) notes the promising developments with respect to trade from Washington D.C. between Caricom and The United States. We are encouraged by the reported intention to extend the component arrangements CBI, CBERA and CBPTA while Caricom and the U.S. Government re-negotiate.

We look forward to continue our lobbying and work with the Government of Trinidad & Tobago (GOTT) as well as our lobbying efforts in Washington. We also pledge our support to other Caribbean Countries that will be participating in the continued discussion.

AmCham T&T hopes that while the re-negotiations are taking place, CBI Countries will continue to make full use of the existing agreement. Congressman Rangel, Chair of The United States Ways and Means Committee is sympathetic to Caricom's perspective and we should use this to our advantage to ultimately create a NEW and EXPANDED arrangement and try to include countries and services that the CBI currently "excludes."

Again, AmCham T&T pledges its' support to the GOTT, Caricom and the region as a whole to ensure successful passage of this agreement.