

HM 23D

2007

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States in support
3 of the establishment of Free Trade Agreements between the
4 United States and Peru, Colombia, and Panama.

5
6 WHEREAS, Florida, the United States' seventh-largest
7 exporter in 2006, with goods exports totaling \$38.5 billion, has
8 a global reputation as a gateway to the Americas and a vital
9 stake in global markets, and

10 WHEREAS, Free Trade Agreements with Peru, Colombia, and
11 Panama offer valuable opportunities for the United States to
12 enhance its competitive edge in the global economy by lowering
13 the barriers that its own exporters face in these markets, and

14 WHEREAS, state and local officials around the United States
15 have signaled their support for Congressional approval of these
16 Free Trade Agreements, and

17 WHEREAS, during the last four economic quarters, exports
18 have accounted for 40 percent of economic growth in the United
19 States, and

20 WHEREAS, manufactured exports translate into the creation
21 of jobs for Florida workers, including 128,400 of them as of
22 2005, and

23 WHEREAS, goods exports from Florida increased by over 15
24 percent last year, leading to a gross domestic product growth of
25 4.2 percent, and totaled \$38.5 billion, representing 5.4 percent
26 of Florida's gross domestic product, and

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27 WHEREAS, agriculture exports, services exports, foreign
28 investment, and imports all contribute significantly to
29 Florida's economy and employment base, and

30 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
31 Agriculture, Florida's agricultural exports reached \$1.7 billion
32 in 2006, maintaining 17,420 Florida jobs, both on and off the
33 farmlands, and

34 WHEREAS, Florida is the second-leading United States
35 exporter to each of its pending Latin American Free Trade
36 Agreement partners, Peru, Colombia, and Panama; and,
37 collectively, Florida exports to those three countries
38 constitute over 7 percent of all Florida exports, and

39 WHEREAS, in 2006, over 250,000 Colombians visited Miami and
40 contributed \$321 million to Florida's economy, and

41 WHEREAS, the security situation in Colombia has improved
42 significantly since 2000, with kidnappings down by 76 percent,
43 terror attacks down by 61 percent, and homicides down by 40
44 percent, and

45 WHEREAS, approval of the United States-Colombia Trade
46 Promotion Agreement will ensure that Colombia continues to make
47 progress in reducing violence while improving economic
48 stability, NOW, THEREFORE,

49
50 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

51
52 That the Congress of the United States is urged to support
53 the establishment of Free Trade Agreements between the United
54 States and Peru, Colombia, and Panama.

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55 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
56 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
57 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
58 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
59 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.