

HR 29D

2007

1 House Resolution

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

5
6 WHEREAS, Florida, the United States' seventh-largest
7 exporter in 2006, with exports of goods totaling \$38.5 billion,
8 has a global reputation as a gateway to the Americas and has a
9 vital 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 the
16 Free Trade Agreements with Peru, Colombia, and Panama, and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, exports of goods from Florida increased by over 15
24 percent last year, resulting in a 4.2 percent increase in the
25 gross domestic product, a total of \$38.5 billion, which
26 represented 5.4 percent of Florida's gross domestic product, and

HR 29D

2007

27 WHEREAS, agricultural exports, services exports, foreign
28 investments, 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, exports from Florida to those three countries
38 constitute over 7 percent of all of Florida's 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,

49 WHEREAS, the passage of Free Trade Agreements between the
50 United States and Peru, Colombia, and Panama will enhance the
51 vitality of the economy in Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

52

53 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
54 Florida:

HR 29D

2007

55

56

57

58

That the House of Representatives supports the
establishment of Free Trade Agreements between the United States
and Peru, Colombia, and Panama.