

By Senator Crist

12-06663-08

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Senate Resolution

A resolution reaffirming the bonds of friendship, cooperation, and economic exchange between the State of Florida and Colombia.

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

WHEREAS, Florida, with a global reputation as a gateway to the Americas and a significant resident population from Latin America, including more than 150,000 from Colombia, is visited by over a quarter of a million Colombians annually, who contributed \$321 million to the state's economy in 2006 alone, and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Florida's exports to Colombia accounted for 23 percent of total United States' exports to that country, and

WHEREAS, goods exports from Florida increased by over 15 percent in 2006, leading to the gross domestic product growth of 4.2 percent, totaling \$38.5 billion, representing 5.4 percent of Florida's gross domestic product, and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Florida-origin exports to Colombia surpassed \$2 billion, increasing by 31 percent over the previous year, and

WHEREAS, agricultural exports, service exports, foreign investment, and imports all contribute significantly to Florida's economy and employment base, and Colombia is a significant contributor, and

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29 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
30 Agriculture, Florida's agricultural exports, including exports of
31 fruits, vegetables, beef, sugar, and dairy products to Colombia,
32 reached \$1.7 billion in 2006, supporting 20,100 jobs throughout
33 the state, both on and off farmlands, and

34 WHEREAS, Florida has benefited greatly from its economic
35 and other exchanges with Colombia and hopes to continue its
36 long-standing relationship between the residents of this state
37 and the people of Colombia, NOW, THEREFORE,

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39 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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41 That the Florida Senate reaffirms the bonds of friendship
42 and cooperation that have existed between the State of Florida
43 and Colombia, recognizes the strong economic ties between the
44 State of Florida and Colombia, and extends best wishes to
45 Colombia and her people for a peaceful, prosperous, and
46 successful future.