

HR 9151

2008

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution in support of the establishment of a Free  
3 Trade Agreement between the United States and Colombia.

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

9 WHEREAS, a Free Trade Agreement with Colombia offers  
10 valuable opportunities for the United States to enhance its  
11 competitive edge in the global economy by lowering the barriers  
12 that its own exporters face in these markets, and

13 WHEREAS, over 150,000 Colombians are estimated to be living  
14 in Florida, and

15 WHEREAS, over a quarter of a million Colombians visit  
16 Florida annually, contributing \$321 million to Florida's economy  
17 in 2006, and

18 WHEREAS, in 2006, Florida's exports to Colombia accounted  
19 for 23 percent of the United States' exports to Colombia, and

20 WHEREAS, goods exports from Florida increased by over 15  
21 percent in 2006, leading to the gross domestic product growth of  
22 4.2 percent, and totaled \$38.5 billion, representing 5.4 percent  
23 of Florida's gross domestic product, and

24 WHEREAS, in 2007, Florida's exports to Colombia surpassed  
25 \$2 billion, increasing by 31 percent over the previous year, and

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

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

33 WHEREAS, since 2002, homicides of trade unionists in  
 34 Colombia have fallen by more than 86 percent, and

35 WHEREAS, over 40,000 terrorists in Colombia have  
 36 demobilized under President Alvaro Uribe, and

37 WHEREAS, approval of the United States-Colombia Trade  
 38 Promotion Agreement will enhance the vitality of Florida's  
 39 economy, NOW, THEREFORE,

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41 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 42 Florida:

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44 That the House of Representatives supports the  
 45 establishment of a Free Trade Agreement between the United  
 46 States and Colombia.