

HM 1483

2009

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to support the establishment of a Free Trade
4 Agreement between the United States and Colombia.

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

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

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, in 2007, Florida's exports to Colombia surpassed
26 \$2 billion, increasing by 31 percent over the previous year, and

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27 WHEREAS, agriculture exports, service 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
33 farmlands, and

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

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

38 WHEREAS, approval of a United States-Colombia Free Trade
39 Agreement will ensure that Colombia continues to make progress
40 in reducing violence while improving economic stability, NOW,
41 THEREFORE,

42
43 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

44
45 That the Congress of the United States is urged to support
46 the establishment of a Free Trade Agreement between the United
47 States and Colombia.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
49 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
50 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
51 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
52 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.