

HM 189

2011

## House Memorial

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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 Colombia, Panama, and the Republic of  
5 Korea.

6  
7 WHEREAS, Florida, the United States' fifth-largest exporter  
8 in 2008, with goods exports totaling \$50.4 billion, has a global  
9 reputation as a gateway to the Americas and a vital stake in  
10 global markets, and

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, agriculture exports, services exports, foreign  
23 investment, and imports all contribute significantly to  
24 Florida's economy and employment base, and

25 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of  
26 Agriculture, Florida's agricultural exports reached \$1.96  
27 billion in 2007, maintaining 17,420 Florida jobs, both on and  
28 off farmlands, and

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29 WHEREAS, in 2007, Florida's exports to Colombia surpassed  
30 \$2 billion, increasing by 31 percent over the previous year, and

31 WHEREAS, Florida is the second-leading United States  
32 exporter to each of its pending Latin American Free Trade  
33 Agreement partners, Panama and Colombia, and approval of Free  
34 Trade Agreements with those countries will ensure that those  
35 nations continue to make progress in reducing violence while  
36 improving economic stability, and

37 WHEREAS, a Free Trade Agreement with the Republic of Korea  
38 would substantially increase access to the South Korean market  
39 and both the United States and the Republic of Korea would  
40 benefit from increased exports, economic growth, and job  
41 creation, NOW, THEREFORE,

42

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

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45 That the Congress of the United States is urged to support  
46 the establishment of Free Trade Agreements between the United  
47 States and Colombia, Panama, and the Republic of Korea.

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.