



# STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-COLOMBIA TRADE ALLIANCE

September 15, 2011

## U.S.-Colombia FTA will Support Jobs and Increase Exports for Companies and Farmers in Florida

During the August recess, Colombian Ambassador to the U.S. Gabriel Silva traveled across the United States, including Florida, to meet with local businesses, farmers and workers to discuss the benefits of the pending U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

### The FTA Will Benefit Florida Exporters By...

- Generating additional export opportunities. Colombia is the **5th largest export market for Florida businesses** and the **3rd largest market for the state's agricultural exporters**. In 2010, Florida's exports to Colombia totaled **\$2.5 billion**.
- Supporting thousands of jobs in the state's service sector. The ports of Miami and Tampa accounted for **\$7.8 billion in two-way trade** last year alone, making Colombia Florida's **2nd largest partner in the world in the movement of goods**.
- Phasing out tariffs for all Florida exports to Colombia over time. The FTA will **immediately remove tariffs on more than 60 percent of Florida's exports** to Colombia – giving local exporters an estimated **\$154 million cost advantage** over nations without a FTA with Colombia.
- Reducing or eliminating the **\$180 million in tariffs that nearly 5,500 Florida companies unnecessarily paid last year**.

Below are links to recent coverage from local news outlets about the Ambassador's visit to Florida and the benefits of the FTA:

["Politics on Trade Trumps Common Sense," Miami Herald \[Editorial\], September 5](#)

["A Jobs Plan That Can Work," Miami Herald \[Editorial\], August 27](#)

["Colombian Envoy Urges Americans To Support Trade Deal," Miami Herald, August 26](#)

["Colombian Ambassador Joins Florida Flower Importers Pressing for Free Trade Act, Associated Press, August 25](#)

["Interview with Ambassador Silva," WWFE-AM La Poderosa \(Miami\), August 23](#)

[WWW.COLOMBIAFTA.ORG](http://WWW.COLOMBIAFTA.ORG)

**TODAY MARKS ONE MONTH SINCE THE COLOMBIA-CANADA FTA ENTERED INTO FORCE. TO REGAIN AND GROW U.S. MARKET SHARE IN COLOMBIA, THE FTA MUST BE APPROVED ASAP!**