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August 3, 2007

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

- Rep. Susan Bucher
- Rep. Antore Flores
- Rep. Luis Garcia
- Rep. Rene Garcia-Chair
- Rep. Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez
- Rep. Marcelo Llorente
- Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera
- Rep. Juan-Carlos "J.C." Planas
- Rep. David Rivera
- Rep. Julio Robaina
- Rep. Marco Rubio
- Rep. Michael J. Scionti
- Rep. Darren Soto
- Rep. Trey Traviesa
- Rep. Juan C. Zapata

Honorable Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the Florida Hispanic Legislative Caucus, I am writing in support of the Colombian Trade Promotion Agreement. The comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Colombia will eliminate tariffs and barriers to goods and services, while promoting economic growth and stability to the country of Colombia. This trade agreement will give Colombia the economic opportunities it needs to improve their country and benefit the State of Florida as well as the United States.

In 2006 over 250,000 Colombians visited Miami and contributed \$321 million to Florida's economy. In 2007, Florida's top import merchandise from Colombia included flowers, men's or boy's suits, waste and scrap of precious metal. On a larger scale, the United States has a growing market with the floral industry. Approximately 4.2 billion flowers are imported annually, estimating \$19.5 billion. In 2007, Florida's top exports to Colombia included computers, computer parts, and machinery parts. This agreement will expand access to U.S. providers to Colombia's service markets such as the financial sector.

As chairman of the Florida Hispanic Legislative Caucus, I am requesting that you take a stand with our group and stand up for minorities, for what is good for our country, but more importantly, for what is right.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Rep. Rene Garcia
Chairman, Florida Hispanic Legislative Caucus