



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 Texas

During the August recess, Colombian Ambassador to the U.S. Gabriel Silva traveled across the United States 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 Texas Exporters By...

- Generating additional export opportunities. Texas is the **most important exporter to Colombia among all 50 states. Colombia is Texas' 8th largest export market**, with more than **\$4.4 billion in exports in 2010**.
- Increasing Texas' key exports to Colombia. The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that with the FTA, U.S. exports in sectors that are important to Texas will increase substantially, including: fabricated metal products – **56 percent increase**; processed foods – **36 percent increase**; chemicals – **23 percent increase**; and machinery – **15 percent increase**.
- Phasing out tariffs for all Texas exports to Colombia over time. The FTA will **immediately remove tariffs on more than 41 percent of Texas' exports** to Colombia – giving local exporters an estimated **\$181 million cost advantage** over nations without a FTA with Colombia.
- Reducing or eliminating the **\$62 million in tariffs that the top 130 Texas companies unnecessarily paid last year**.

Below are links to recent coverage from local news outlets about the benefits of the FTA to Texas companies and farmers:

["Houston's Stake In Pending Congressional Free Trade Votes," KUHFM-FM \(Houston\), August 22](#)

["Pass Trade Pacts; Create More Jobs," San Antonio Express-News \[Editorial\], August 16](#)

["Free Trade Agreements Would Boost Agriculture Investment, Job Growth," North Texas e-News \[Op-ed by Fannin County Farm Bureau\], August 1](#)

["Free Trade Pacts with South Korea, Colombia and Panama Could Boost U.S. Exports, Jobs," Dallas Morning News, July 18](#)

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!