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Embassy of Colombia in the United States



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“Colorado’s Colombian Connection”

Op-ed by Colombian Ambassador to the United States Juan Carlos Pinzón

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As my Frontier flight landed in Denver, I was struck by how much the Mile High City skyline resembles that of my hometown, Bogotá. But, the skyscrapers and bustling city center against a stunning mountainous backdrop aren’t all that our two cities have in common. Over time, we have also developed a strong economic partnership, and there are many opportunities to expand it to benefit Coloradans and Colombians alike.

That’s why I traveled to Denver to meet with leaders of companies pioneering innovative solutions in manufacturing and services. I met with the CEO of Ball Corp., a leading global metal and plastic packaging supplier and aerospace technologies and services provider. With executives from Liberty Global and DaVita, I learned about the world’s largest TV and broadband company and a truly cutting-edge kidney care company, respectively.

Already, Colombia and Colorado have a strong trade and investment relationship. The proof is in the numbers. Colombia is the 7th largest market for Colorado exports in Latin America. From January-September 2015 to January-September 2016, Colorado exports to Colombia increased by more than 40 percent, and Colorado’s imports from Colombia increased by 37 percent – a win-win. And, during that same period, Colorado’s trade surplus with Colombia increased by 44 percent.

The Colorado-Colombia economic partnership is a robust one defined by dynamic and complementary trade. Colorado’s top exports to Colombia, which totaled more than \$22 million in 2015, ranged from electrical equipment and machinery to computers and electronics. That same year, Colombia sent nearly \$8 million in goods to Colorado, from agricultural products to apparel.

Strong relations with Colorado are critically important to the U.S.-Colombia partnership, the most important strategic partnership in the Western Hemisphere.

The U.S.-Colombia partnership led to Colombia's remarkable turnaround from the brink of becoming a failed state to the most dynamic economy in Latin America. The partnership created the pathway to peace and laid the foundation for Colombia to be an even stronger ally and economic partner to the United States.

My visit confirmed that working together there is so much more our two nations can achieve to benefit businesses, families and workers from Denver to Bogotá.

See the op-ed online [here](#).

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