



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 California

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

- Generating additional export opportunities. California is the **4th largest exporter to Colombia among all 50 states**. Colombia is the **9th largest market in Latin America for California's agricultural goods**. In 2010, California's exports to Colombia totaled **\$410 million**.
- Supporting thousands of jobs in the state's service sector through the significant two-way flow of goods between Colombia and California's many ports. Last year, the **Port of Los Angeles generated \$537 million in two-way trade** with Colombia; the Port of Oakland, **more than \$100 million**; the Port of Long Beach, **nearly \$100 million**; and the Port of San Francisco, **more than \$85 million**.
- Phasing out tariffs for all California exports to Colombia over time. The FTA will **immediately remove tariffs on more than 66 percent of California's exports** to Colombia – giving local exporters an estimated **\$27.2 million cost advantage** over nations without a FTA with Colombia.
- Reducing or eliminating the **\$17 million in tariffs that more than 1,600 California-based companies unnecessarily paid last year**.

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

["Interview with Ambassador Silva," KMJ-AM – California Ag Network \(Fresno\), September 6](#)

["Colombian Ambassador Wants His California Wine," KMJ-AM – California Ag Network \(Fresno\), September 6](#)

["Ratify Trade Pacts with Korea, Panama, Colombia," San Francisco Chronicle \[Editorial\], August 18](#)

["Trade Official Touring LA Port Says International Agreements Help U.S. Economy," Southern California Public Radio, August 16](#)

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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!