

Introduced by Senator Ackerman

May 1, 2008

Senate Joint Resolution No. 29—Relative to U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 29, as introduced, Ackerman. U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.

This measure would express the Legislature's recognition of and support for the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement
2 (CTPA) provides increased access for California's agricultural
3 exports by making agricultural trade a two-way street and leveling
4 the playing field with respect to third country competitors in the
5 Colombian market; and

6 WHEREAS, Already the United States' largest market in South
7 America, Colombia now holds even greater potential because it
8 has agreed to immediately eliminate duties on 53 percent of current
9 United States trade upon implementation of the agreement; and

10 WHEREAS, The American Farm Bureau and over 40 other
11 agricultural industry and farm groups strongly support the
12 agreement by stating "the agreement will provide U.S. products
13 exported to Colombia with the same duty-free access already
14 granted to Colombian products exported to the U.S."; and

15 WHEREAS, Exports of farm products boost California's farm
16 prices and income, and such exports support approximately 124,100
17 jobs both on and off the farm in food processing, storage, and

1 transportation; agricultural exports amounted to \$10.5 billion and
2 made an important contribution to California's farm cash receipts
3 in 2006 that totaled \$31.4 billion; and

4 WHEREAS, United States dairy exports to Colombia surpassed
5 \$6.3 million in 2006, and changes with the CTPA will provide
6 immediate opportunities for United States dairy producers;
7 California is the nation's leading dairy producer and exporter, with
8 \$4.4 billion in cash receipts; and

9 WHEREAS, Exports of fresh fruit to Colombia surpassed \$11.4
10 million in 2006, nearly 250 percent above that of 2002 and, as the
11 nation's leading exporter of fruits and preparations, California's
12 fruit producers will benefit from the CTPA; and

13 WHEREAS, Accounting for \$2.7 billion in exports in 2006,
14 California's almond, pistachio, and walnut producers will benefit
15 from the CTPA; and

16 WHEREAS, As the nation's leader in exports and value of sales,
17 California's vegetable growers and processors can look to increase
18 market share in Colombia with CTPA and, as the nation's second
19 largest rice exporter, California's rice producers will benefit from
20 the CTPA; and

21 WHEREAS, Cotton export figures to Colombia are at their
22 highest since at least 1970 (in excess of \$70 million) and growing,
23 and California is the nation's fifth largest cotton producer; and

24 WHEREAS, With cash receipts of nearly \$1.7 billion in 2006,
25 California's ranchers and beef industry will benefit from the CTPA,
26 and as the nation's leading wine exporter, California wine
27 producers will benefit from the CTPA; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
29 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
30 recognizes and supports the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion
31 Agreement as it will further enhance California's competitiveness,
32 level the playing field for California exporters, and make trade
33 with Colombia a two-way street, benefitting California's
34 businesses, farmers, and workers; and be it further

35 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
36 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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