

# Central American Free Trade Agreement Opens Opportunities for California Business



President George W. Bush this week signed a California Chamber of Commerce-supported trade agreement that will provide businesses here with greater access to markets in the Dominican Republic and Central America.

“The California Chamber of Commerce applauds the approval of the Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Central America. This agreement will create a seamless business environment between the economies, bringing measurable business benefits in all sectors,” said Chamber President Allan Zaremberg. “This agreement will bring benefits directly to California.”

The U.S.-Dominican Republic/Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) won U.S. Senate approval on June 30 (55-45), passed the U.S. House of Representatives on July 28 (217-215) and was signed by the President on August 2.

## More Exports

DR-CAFTA will increase U.S. exports worldwide by \$1.9 billion upon implementation, according to a study by the U.S. International Trade Commission. That increase is greater than any other recent free trade agreement.

When the DR-CAFTA is implemented, more than 80 percent of U.S. exports will be able to enter the DR-CAFTA countries (Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) duty-free, with all products having duty-free access in 10 years.

## Trade Impact

The United States and the six countries represented by the DR-CAFTA share more than \$32 billion in total (two-way) trade in goods.

Leading U.S. imports from Central America include apparel products and edible fruit. Leading U.S. exports

## California Congressional Delegation Vote on Central American Free Trade Agreement

### U.S. Senate

#### Aye (1 of 55)

Dianne Feinstein (D-San Francisco)

#### No (1 of 45)

Barbara Boxer (D-Greenbrae)

### House of Representatives

#### Ayes (19 of 217)

Mary Bono (R-Palm Springs)  
Ken Calvert (R-Corona)  
Christopher Cox (R-Newport Beach)  
Randy “Duke” Cunningham  
(R-Rancho Santa Fe)  
John T. Doolittle (R-Roseville)  
David Dreier (R-San Dimas)  
Elton Gallegly (R-Simi Valley)  
Wally Hergert (R-Marysville)  
Darrell E. Issa (R-Vista)  
Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands)  
Daniel E. Lungren (R-Folsom)  
Howard P. “Buck” McKeon  
(R-Santa Clarita)  
Gary G. Miller (R-Diamond Bar)  
Devin Nunes (R-Tulare)  
Richard W. Pombo (R-Tracy)  
George Radanovich (R-Mariposa)  
Dana Rohrabacher  
(R-Huntington Beach)  
Edward R. Royce (R-Fullerton)  
William M. Thomas (R-Bakersfield)

#### Noes (34 of 215)

Joe Baca (D-Rialto)  
Xavier Becerra (D-Los Angeles)  
Howard L. Berman (D-North Hollywood)  
Lois Capps (D-Santa Barbara)  
Dennis A. Cardoza (D-Atwater)  
Jim Costa (D-Fresno)  
Susan A. Davis (D-San Diego)  
Anna G. Eshoo (D-Atherton)  
Sam Farr (D-Carmel)  
Bob Filner (D-San Diego)  
Jane Harman (D-Venice)  
Michael M. Honda (D-San Jose)  
Duncan Hunter (R-Alpine)  
Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo)  
Barbara Lee (D-Oakland)  
Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose)  
Doris O. Matsui (D-Sacramento)  
Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-Carson)  
George Miller (D-Martinez)  
Grace F. Napolitano (D-Norwalk)  
Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco)  
Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Los Angeles)  
Linda T. Sánchez (D-Lakewood)  
Loretta Sanchez (D-Anaheim)  
Adam B. Schiff (D-Burbank)  
Brad Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks)  
Hilda L. Solis (D-El Monte)  
Fortney “Pete” Stark (D-Fremont)  
Ellen O. Tauscher (D-Alamo)  
Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena)  
Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles)  
Diane E. Watson (D-Los Angeles)  
Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles)  
Lynn C. Woolsey (D-Petaluma)

to Central America include textiles, machinery, electrical machinery and equipment, and plastics.

The United States is the main supplier of goods and services to Central American economies. Forty percent of total goods imported by Central America come from the United States. California exports to the DR-CAFTA market totaled nearly \$660 million in 2004, making it the state’s 25th largest export market.

The DR-CAFTA is expected to contribute to stronger economies, the rule of law, sustainable development and more accountable institutions of governance, complementing ongoing domestic, bilateral and multilateral efforts in the region.

For more information on the DR-CAFTA, visit [www.calchamber.com/international](http://www.calchamber.com/international).

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