

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



April 13, 2010

To: Members, CA State Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic
Development and the Economy

From: California Coalition for Free Trade

Re: **AJR 27 (Torrico) – US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement**
*Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic
Development and the Economy on Tuesday, April 20.*

We, the undersigned companies and business organizations of the California Coalition for Free Trade, urge a NO vote on California AJR 27 which memorializes Congress to oppose the Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Colombia. This resolution is a symbolic gesture that, while not legally binding, would cast the FTA and Colombia—an important trading partner and a partner in stopping drug trafficking—in an unproductive light if it were to pass.

The US- Colombia FTA was signed in 2006, but is pending US Congressional approval. US Congressional approval of this FTA is important to an improved US economy and opens more trade opportunities. The FTA will eliminate tariffs and other barriers to trade in goods and services, promote economic growth and enhance trade between the United States and Colombia. In 2009, the United States exported over \$9.5 billion worth of goods to Colombia, with total trade amounting to over \$20.7 billion.

Additionally, the US-Colombia FTA offers tremendous opportunities for California's exporters. Colombia is California's 35th largest trading partner, exporting more than \$320 million in goods in 2009. It is important to continue the expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products, and the elimination of impediments to the international competitiveness of California businesses.

In the recent years Colombia's economy has experienced positive growth due to the government's efforts to reduce debt, promote exports, and improve security.