

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

AUGUST 12, 2008

**COLUMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT**

The United States-Columbia Trade Promotion Agreement (CTPA), which would eliminate tariffs and other trade barriers, was signed on November 22, 2006. If implemented, more than 80 percent of all U.S. exports of consumer and industrial products to Columbia will become duty-free immediately, with remaining tariffs phased out over ten years.

The promotion of free trade between the United States and other nations is especially important to Southern California’s economy. According to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, international trade is the largest employer sector of our local economy, accounting for more than 500,000 jobs in the five-county Southern California region. In addition, the combined Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles also are the nation’s busiest ports, accounting for nearly one-third of all in- and outbound U.S. trade. In 2007, the value of exports to Columbia through the Los Angeles Customs District totaled \$162 million.

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**MOTION**

Molina	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Burke	_____

Many state and local government organizations and officials support the U.S. Columbia Trade Promotion Agreement, including the Council of State Governments, United States Conference of Mayors, American Legislative Exchange Council, Miami-Dade County, and the Mayors of the City of Chicago, Miami, Dallas, San Diego, and Anaheim.

On April 7, 2008, the President submitted legislation to implement CPTA to Congress. Unless Congress enacts this implementing legislation and ratifies CPTA, our national, state, and local economy will not be able to benefit from expanded trade with Columbia, which has the third largest population and fifth largest economy in Latin America.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors support the United States-Columbia Trade Promotion Agreement (CTPA).

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