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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

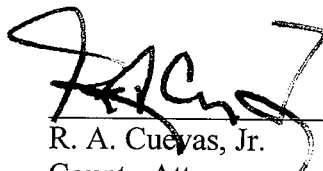
DATE: February 15, 2011

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Congress to
approve Free Trade Agreements
with Colombia, Panama and
South Korea

R-118-11

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

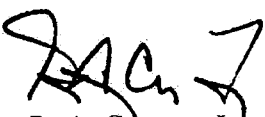


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised**
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**
- Budget required**
- Statement of fiscal impact required**
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing**
- No committee review**
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous____) to approve**
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11 (A) (4)
2-15-11

RESOLUTION NO. R-118-11

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO APPROVE FREE
TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH COLOMBIA, PANAMA AND
SOUTH KOREA

WHEREAS, in Miami-Dade County, trade is the driving forces of our local economy, and Colombia, Panama and South Korea all play important roles in Miami-Dade County trade; and

WHEREAS, Colombia, Panama and South Korea are among Miami-Dade County's top trading partners, contributing over \$5 billion in total trade annually; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Florida sold more than \$3 billion of its products and services to Colombia, about a third of total U.S. exports to Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is Miami's second largest trading partner, and Colombia has proven to be a trading partner resilient to economic downturn as trade with Colombia has dropped far less than with other countries during the current economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, Florida's top exports to Colombia and Panama include computers, telecommunications, electronics and heavy machinery parts; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is the largest air trading partner for Miami International Airport (MIA) by weight with 192,000 tons of cargo moving through MIA to and from Colombia in 2009 with a value of almost \$4.3 million; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is the 11th largest trading partner with the Port of Miami, trading 136,654 tons of cargo through the Port of Miami in fiscal year 2009-10; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is not only a prominent trade partner with the U.S., but has in recent decades emerged as a close military and political ally of the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is also the longest standing democracy in South America, is the strongest ally to the U.S. in the region and now serves as a stabilizing influence in the region; and

WHEREAS, a Free Trade Agreement between the U.S. and Colombia will advance our national security by strengthening a key ally; and

WHEREAS, Colombia signed a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. in June 2007, and it is now pending Congressional approval; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. is by far Panama's largest trading partner, exporting \$4.3 billion worth of goods to Panama in 2009, with mineral fuel, machinery, electrical machinery and aircraft topping the list of exported goods; and

WHEREAS, among the fifty states, Florida is ranked first in exports to Panama; and

WHEREAS, between 2006 and 2008, exports from Florida to Panama increased by more than 71 percent; and

WHEREAS, Panama is Miami-Dade County's 18th largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, Panama's total trade with Miami-Dade County was \$1.64 billion in 2008, which was up from \$1.04 billion in 2006; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and expanding on our positive trade relationship with Panama is particularly critical in light of the expansion of the Panama Canal, projected to be completed in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Panama Canal is a critical trans-ocean shipping lane that plays a vital role for moving people and cargo from one side of the globe to the other; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the Panama Canal is an infrastructure project that will influence trade patterns and affect U.S. port growth for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami is the closest East Coast port to the Panama Canal and is therefore ideally positioned to advantage of increased trade from the expanded canal; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami is working to deepen its channel to take advantage of the expansion of the Panama Canal in order to double the volume of cargo we currently process; and

WHEREAS, Panama signed a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. in July 2007, and it is now pending Congressional approval; and

WHEREAS, a Free Trade Agreement with South Korea would be the first Free Trade Agreement by the U.S. with a major Asian economy, and the largest trade deal by the U.S. since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Enterprise Florida estimates that Florida's total import and export trade with South Korea was valued at more than \$806 million in 2009; and

WHEREAS, South Korea is Miami-Dade County's 28th largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, South Korea traded 61,160 tons of cargo through the Port of Miami in 2010 making South Korea the Port of Miami's 24th largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, South Korea signed a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. in June 2007, with a renegotiated version signed in December 2010, and it is now pending Congressional approval; and

WHEREAS, Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea are all now pending approval by the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, approval by the U.S. Congress of Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea would not only further enhance trade with these important allies, but also could serve to accelerate economic recovery, particularly in Miami-Dade County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the U.S. Congress to approve Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2011 and 2012 Federal Legislative Packages.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Carlos A. Gimenez** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	aye	
	Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	aye	
Bruno A. Barreiro	aye	Lynda Bell	aye
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye	Carlos A. Gimenez	aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Barbara J. Jordan	aye
Jean Monestime	aye	Dennis C. Moss	absent
Natacha Seijas	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 15th day of February, 2011. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: **DIANE COLLINS**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

JMM

Jess M. McCarty