

FLORIDA: Leveling the Playing Field

We need to make sure that trade around the world is fair. We just want countries to treat us like we treat them, because we can compete with anybody, anytime, anywhere when the rules are fair.

*-- President George W. Bush
Miami, Florida*

Trade Plays a Significant Role in Florida's Growing Economy: People from all over the world are buying Florida products, which helps fuel Florida's economy and create jobs.

- ✓ Florida sold \$25 billion in goods to 219 foreign markets in 2003.
- ✓ At \$7.3 billion in 2003, computers and electronics are Florida's biggest exports.
- ✓ Florida is America's 2nd largest exporter of fruits and the 7th largest exporter of vegetables.
- ✓ 151,000 jobs in Florida and 14.7% of all manufacturing workers in Florida were supported by U.S. manufactured goods exports. Such jobs are estimated to pay 13% to 18% more than the U.S. national average wage.
- ✓ 33,321 companies in Florida exported goods in 2001; 92% were small and medium sized businesses.

Florida Benefits as President Bush Levels the Playing Field: The Bush Administration has worked aggressively to level the playing field for Florida's farmers, workers, and businesses by opening new markets, removing barriers that hurt Florida's exporters, promoting Florida exports, and enforcing our trade laws and combating unfair trade practices.

- **Opening New Markets for Florida:** Florida's farmers and manufacturers benefit as the Bush Administration opens new markets by:
 - **Expanding markets for Florida-grown fruits and vegetables in Central America and the Dominican Republic.** Florida exported over \$3.1 billion worth of fruits and vegetables to these markets in 2003, more than any other U.S. state. As one of America's largest producers of fruits and vegetables, Florida benefits greatly from new markets for these goods.
 - **Expanding markets for Florida's manufactured goods exported to Australia.** The U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement provides immediate benefits for Florida's manufacturing sectors, including autos and autos parts, chemicals, electrical equipment and appliances and information technology by immediately eliminating duties that were limiting access to Australia markets. 97% of Florida's exports to Australia consist of manufactured products.
 - **Opening new markets in Morocco for Florida's manufacturers, ranchers and poultry producers.** Florida exports \$8.5 million in goods to Morocco.

- **Removing Barriers that Hurt Florida's Exporters:** The Bush Administration's aggressive actions to remove barriers for American exporters help Florida farmers, manufacturers, high-tech industry and workers by:
 - **Reducing barriers and increasing exports to Chile where Florida exports more goods than any other U.S. state.** Florida exported nearly \$637 million in goods to Chile in 2003, and Chile was Florida's 11th largest market.
 - **Eliminating tariffs for Florida's exports of information technology to Australia, Morocco, Singapore, Bahrain, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic.**
 - **Reducing tariffs and eliminating barriers for Florida's auto parts exported to Australia, Jordan, Korea, Mexico, India and the Philippines.** Florida's transportation industry is a leading exporter, totaling \$3.7 billion in 2003.
 - **Reducing tariffs and increasing intellectual property protections for Florida's computer and electronic products exported to Columbia and Ecuador under the Andean Free Trade Agreement.** In 2003, Florida companies exported \$1.5 billion in goods to Columbia and Ecuador – more than any other U.S. state. 40% of these exports were computers and electronics.

- **Promoting Florida Exports:** The Bush Administration actively works with American businesses to promote exports by leveraging the benefits of our international trade agreements. Some of our Florida successes include:
 - **ESCO in Brooksville, FL** is a woman-owned manufacturer of tire-changing tools and equipment, with pinpointing distributors in Latin America and China, which has been exporting to China as a result of the Administration's assistance.
 - **New England Machinery in Bradenton, FL** is a woman-owned family business that manufactures packaging machinery, which participated in a 2001 Bush Administration Business Development Mission to Russia, and, as a result, has sold two systems in the Russian market.

- **Enforcing Trade Laws and Combating Unfair Trade Practices:** The President's enforcement of trade laws and vigorous pursuit of allegations of unfair trade have produced real results for Florida, including:
 - **Ensuring fair access to China for Florida semiconductors** by bringing the first WTO case against China to ensure fair tax treatment for U.S. semiconductors in China, the fastest growing semiconductor market. Within months, China agreed to our demands, ensuring that Florida and other U.S. exporters have fair access to a market worth over \$2 billion to American manufacturers.
 - **Ensuring a level playing for Florida's shrimpers** by imposing antidumping duties of up to 112% on imports of frozen and canned shrimp from China, Brazil, Ecuador, India, Thailand and Vietnam that were preliminarily found to injure domestic shrimpers.
 - **Ensuring a level playing field for Florida's tomato growers** by enforcing trade laws to ensure that imports of Mexican tomatoes are entering the U.S. at fair prices.