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Tariff Ticker Highlights Cost of Delaying Colombia FTA

Washington, D.C. – Today the U.S. Commerce Department unveiled a screen ticker highlighting the nearly \$1 billion in estimated tariffs imposed on U.S. exports to Colombia since the free trade agreement (FTA) was signed. The ticker can be viewed at www.tradeagreements.gov.

Many of these tariffs on U.S. goods and services would be immediately eliminated once the Colombia FTA enters in to Force. These tariffs can only be eliminated if Congress schedules a vote and approves the Colombia FTA. The agreement was signed 520 days ago on November 22, 2006.

“At a time when exports are booming and we are looking to spur U.S. economic growth, Congress should allow American workers to compete on a level playing field,” Ambassador Susan C. Schwab said. “Burdening products and services created by American workers, farmers and entrepreneurs each time they sell to the Colombian market must end now. Every day we delay, only harms us more.”

Every day that Congress fails to level the playing field costs U.S. workers whose products carry stiff tariffs like 80 percent on high quality beef, 20 percent on shampoo and deodorant, 15-20 percent on wine, 5-10 percent on cell phones, and 5-10 percent on important medical equipment such as Ultrasound, X-ray machines and pacemakers. Once the Colombia FTA is in force, these tariffs will be immediately eliminated, making American products more affordable and more competitive in the Colombian market.

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