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For Immediate Release - Monday, April 7, 2008

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MACK: CONGRESS MUST PASS COLOMBIAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON – Congressman Connie Mack (FL-14), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, issued the following statement today urging the House Democratic Leadership to quickly bring the Colombian Free Trade Agreement to the floor for a vote after President Bush officially sends the legislation to Congress tomorrow.

Mack said:

“Tomorrow, President Bush will formally send Congress the Colombian Free Trade Agreement, vital legislation that will help to create jobs, grow our economy and strengthen the stability of Latin America. Now it is Congress’ duty to pass this important free trade agreement with one of America’s strongest friends and allies in the Western Hemisphere.

“Adoption of this free trade agreement will demonstrate to Colombia and the rest of Latin America that the United States is committed to building upon our good relationships with our allies in the region by bolstering trade between the two countries.

“What’s more, a free trade agreement with Colombia will help to reinforce our strong relationship with Colombia and thwart the increasing influence of Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez in Latin America.

“I strongly urge the Democratic Leadership to bring this legislation to the floor without delay.”

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