

"A Major Win for Florida"

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., released the following statement after President Obama signed into law job-creating free trade pacts with Colombia, Panama and South Korea.

"The signing of these long-stalled trade deals is a major win for Florida," said Buchanan, Florida's only member of the powerful House Ways & Means Committee and its Subcommittee on Trade. "Creating jobs and growing the economy are the most important issues facing us today. More than 80 percent of U.S. exporters to South Korea, Colombia, and Panama are small and medium-sized enterprises. We have the opportunity to generate thousands of jobs right here in our backyard."

Buchanan noted that Florida's 14 deepwater seaports generate over \$65 billion in economic value to the state. The U.S. International Trade Commission recently reported that implementation of the three FTA's would increase U.S. exports by \$13 billion, adding \$10 billion to U.S. GDP. Such an increase could create as many as 250,000 American jobs.