

October 5, 2007

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H.R. _____

To clarify and extend the commitment of the United States to pursue economic cooperation with Costa Rica and other nations in the Caribbean Basin, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Grijalva (for himself and Ms. Sánchez) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To clarify and extend the commitment of the United States to pursue economic cooperation with Costa Rica and other nations in the Caribbean Basin, and to extend the temporary provisions to provide additional trade benefits to certain beneficiary countries under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “The U.S. and Costa Rica Trade Cooperation Act.”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

- (1) The United States and Costa Rica have a strong economic relationship built on mutual trust and respect for each others’ laws and political systems.

- (2) It is the sovereign decision of Costa Ricans whether or not to ratify the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) in their historic popular referendum.
- (3) The United States will fully respect whatever decision the Costa Rican people make on the CAFTA referendum.
- (4) It is the official position of the United States that no entity of the U.S. government be allowed to interfere in Costa Rica's referendum on the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).
- (5) Almost all of Costa Rica's duty free U.S. market access is already permanent under U.S. law.
- (6) The Constitution clearly provides Congress with the responsibility of establishing U.S. trade policy. The statements made by United States Trade Representative Susan Schwab on October 4, 2007 regarding the U.S. trade relationship with Costa Rica do not reflect U.S. trade policy.
- (7) Regardless of the outcome of the historic referendum on whether or not to ratify the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), the U.S. will continue to extend all current trade benefits to Costa Rica.

**Sec. 3. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY PROVISION TO PROVIDE
ADDITIONAL TRADE BENEFITS TO CERTAIN BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES
UNDER THE CARRIBEAN BASIN ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT.**

Section 213 (b) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)) is amended –

- (1) in subclauses (II)(cc) and (IV)(dd) of paragraph (2)(A)(3)(iii), by striking “through September 30, 2008” each place it appears; and
- (2) in paragraph (5)(D), by striking “ends on the earlier of” and all that follows through “the date on which” and inserting “ends on the date on which”.