

State Of Florida

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Florida Chamber of Commerce has a long-standing history of supporting free trade, expanding international trade and investment opportunities for Florida business and communities, fair and equitable market access for Florida-origin exports abroad, and elimination of barriers that are harmful to Florida's competitiveness as a global hub for trade; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida, with 20 commercial airports, 15 seaports, and two spaceports, has invested more than \$10 billion in infrastructure for each of the past four years; and

WHEREAS, international business accounts for approximately 17 percent of Florida's economy, over 61,000 companies in Florida export products or services, and 95 percent of Florida's exporters are small and medium sized companies; and

WHEREAS, international companies grow faster, are more profitable, pay higher wages, and are more resilient during economic downturns; and

WHEREAS, the impact of international commerce on Florida's economy cannot be overstated as international trade supports over two million jobs, that's one in 5 jobs; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Florida's total merchandise trade reached \$147.7 billion, including \$55 billion in origin exports, more than \$5.9 billion in exports of agricultural commodities, \$77.5 billion in imports, and welcomed 14.2 million visitors from overseas; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks sixth in the nation in terms of foreign direct investment employment and ranks first in the Southeastern United States in the same category with foreign companies employing more than 327,000 Floridians; and

WHEREAS, trade and foreign direct investment will continue to play a significant role in Florida's future job and economic growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 2018 as

FLORIDA WORLD TRADE MONTH

in recognition of the significant role international commerce plays in Florida's current and future economy.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee on the 15th day of May, 2018.



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

PAM BONDI
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JIMMY PATRONIS
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

ADAM H. PUTNAM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE