

4/03/2008 Moran to Visit Colombia with U.S. Trade Representative

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Visits Agricultural Operations, Views Progress in Fight Against Drugs

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab today announced that Congressman Jerry Moran will join her in two-day visit to Colombia. Schwab is leading a small delegation to Colombia to meet with President Alvaro Uribe and other officials to promote agricultural trade for American farmers and ranchers and view progress in the fight against drugs.

"Colombia is our largest export market for U.S. agriculture products in South America," Moran said. "It is a valuable opportunity to travel with the U.S. Trade Representative and be involved in discussions with Colombian officials. I want to see for myself the opportunities for Kansas agriculture, as well as learn more about the fight against drugs and the circumstances surrounding human rights violations."

In addition to meeting with the President, Ambassador Schwab and Moran will meet with Trade Minister Luis Guillermo Plata, Attorney General Mario Iguaran, Members of Congress, labor and trade union leaders, members of the business community and demobilized combatants. Moran will visit a farm that was once used to grow coca, which is used in the production of cocaine, and visit with workers about the changes and fight against drugs in Colombia.

America's two-way trade with Colombia reached \$18 billion in 2007, making Colombia our fourth largest trading partner in Latin America. In 2007, total U.S. goods exports to Colombia reached \$8.6 billion.

Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

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