

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Agreement will further open Chile's markets for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, services, and investors. It will increase competition and consumer choice. The FTA will enhance prosperity in the United States and Chile, serve the interest of expanding U.S. commerce, and advance our overall national interest.

The U.S.-Chile FTA is the first United States free trade agreement with a South American country. We hope the FTA will add momentum to Chile's continued implementation of the free market economic policies that have made Chile a model for its Latin American neighbors. This Agreement will also encourage other countries in the Western Hemisphere to follow Chile's path, furthering our efforts to establish a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

My Administration is strongly committed to securing a level playing field for America's workers, farmers, and businesses. The Congress helped advance that policy by passing Trade Promotion Authority in the Trade Act of 2002 (the "Trade Act"). The Congress can help us take another important step by approving this Agreement and the implementing legislation. United States workers and businesses are currently at a competitive disadvantage in the Chilean market. Chile is an associate member in Mercosur and has FTAs with many other countries, including Canada, Mexico, and the 15 members of the European Union. Securing an FTA with Chile will ensure that U.S. workers and businesses will receive treatment in the Chilean market that is as good as or better than their competitors.

In negotiating this FTA, my Administration was guided by the negotiating objectives set out in the Trade Act. More than 85 percent of trade in consumer and industrial goods between the United States and Chile will be free of duties immediately upon implementation, and most remaining tariffs on U.S. exports to Chile will be eliminated within 4 years after that. More than three-quarters of U.S. farm goods will enter Chile duty free within 4 years and all duties on such goods will be phased out over 12 years. At the same time, the Agreement includes measures to ensure that U.S. firms and farmers have an opportunity to adjust to imports from Chile.

This Agreement opens opportunities for our services businesses, which now account for nearly 65 percent of our gross domestic product and more than 80 percent of employment in the United States. Chile will grant substantial market access to U.S. firms across nearly the entire spectrum of services, including banking, insurance, securities and related financial services, express delivery services, professional services, and telecommunications.

This Agreement provides for state-of-the-art intellectual property protection and recognizes the importance of trade in the digital age by including significant commitments on trade in digital products. In addition, it ensures that electronic commerce will stay free of duties and discriminatory rules.

United States citizens and businesses that invest in Chile will have significant increased protections. This Agreement promotes the rule of law and enhances transparency and openness in order to foster a more secure environment for trade and investment. Furthermore, Chile will provide U.S. investors with important substantive protections that Chilean investors already enjoy in the United States.

The United States and Chile have also agreed to cooperate on environment and labor issues and to establish mechanisms to support those efforts. A number of important cooperative projects that will promote environmental protection are identified for future work. The FTA encourages the adoption of high labor and environmental standards, obligates each country to enforce its own labor and environmental laws, and makes clear that domestic labor and environmental protections may not be reduced in order to encourage trade or investment. The Agreement also preserves our right to pursue other legitimate domestic objectives, including the protection of health and safety, consumer interests, and national security.

Trade and openness contribute to development, the rule of law, economic growth, and international cooperation. Chile is a close partner of the United States, and this Agreement will strengthen those ties.

With the approval of this Agreement and passage of the implementing legislation by the Congress, we will advance U.S. economic and political interests, while encouraging others to work with us to expand free trade around the world.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2003.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION UNDERMINES ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, from clean air and water to wetlands and global warming, this is an administration that is determined to ignore the most pressing environmental problems, dismiss good science that draws attention to these problems and undermine

our most effective environmental laws that address those problems.

It is one thing for the Bush administration to break its promises on environmental issues such as regulating carbon dioxide, but every administration has a responsibility to provide Congress and the American people with sound science that is untainted by politics.

Unfortunately, it is becoming all too common for the Bush administration to compromise the independence and credibility of our government agencies by shelving and suppressing sound science if it does not fit their political agenda.

Most recently, this trend is evident in EPA's actions surrounding the administration's "Clear Skies" proposal which would weaken the Clean Air Act. Earlier this month the EPA intentionally hid data showing that a competing Senate clean air bill would provide far greater long-term health benefits at only a slightly higher cost. While EPA disclosed the cost associated with the Senate bill, it failed to disclose that the proposal would result in 17,800 fewer premature deaths annually than the administration's proposal.

This comes on the heels of last month's release of EPA's State of the Environment Report. The report, commissioned in 2001 by Administrator Whitman, was intended to provide the first comprehensive review of what is known about the various environmental problems, from air pollution to the state of drinking water supplies, where gaps in understanding exist and how we might fill them.

The White House directed a major rewrite of an assessment of climate change, removing references to health and environmental risks posed by rising global temperatures.

According to an EPA memo, the changes demanded by the White House were so extensive that the climate section no longer accurately represents scientific consensus on climate change and characterized the revised draft as an embarrassment to the EPA. If the changes are accepted, the staff memo said, the agency will take severe criticism from the science and environmental communities for poorly representing the science of climate change.

According to the EPA papers, the White House deleted from a summary under the heading of Global Issues the sentence, "Climate changes has global consequences for human health and the environment." A number of scientific reports have also raised those concerns.

The draft also removed the reference and a graphic to a 1999 study showing global temperatures had risen sharply in the past decade compared with the previous 1,000 years. Instead, it cites a new study partly sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute that disputed those findings.