



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

**FLORIDA WORLD TRADE MONTH**

**WHEREAS, nearly 1.3 million jobs in Florida depend on international business; and**

**WHEREAS, more than 55,000 companies in Florida export products or services; and**

**WHEREAS, 95 percent of Florida's exporters are small and medium sized companies; and**

**WHEREAS, last year, Florida welcomed 9.3 million overseas and more than 3 million Canadian visitors; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in exporting agriculture commodities with a value of more than \$1.5 billion; and**

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

**WHEREAS, in 2011, Florida origin exports reached \$64.8 billion, a 17 percent increase over 2010; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida ranks sixth in the nation in terms of foreign direct investment employment and ranks first in the southeastern United States in that same category; and**

**WHEREAS, foreign companies employ 236,700 Floridians; and**

**WHEREAS, the impact of international commerce on Florida's economy cannot be overstated; and**

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing *Florida World Trade Month* in recognition of the important role international commerce plays in Florida's current and future economy.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Great State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee the Capital, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, in the year two thousand twelve.**

  
Governor