



## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Esprit Miami Goes to Washington DC for Congressional Action Days

**Washington, D.C., March 21, 2006** -- Representatives from Esprit Miami traveled with AFIF, Association of Floral Importers of Florida, to Washington D.C. on March 20 - 21, 2006 to meet with Congressmen/women and Senators for the 26th Annual Congressional Action Days.

The primary issue AFIF and Esprit lobbied was to gain support for renewing the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA), which is set to expire in December 2006. The ATPA was enacted in 1991 and grants preferential trade benefits on approximately 5,600 products for four Andean nations: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. These trade benefits have played a vital role in helping Andean countries develop and strengthen legitimate industries.

Fresh flowers are covered by the ATPA and will incur 8% import tariffs if the Act is allowed to expire. Advocates of the ATPA express grave concern for the health of both the U.S. and Andean floral industries, as well as the livelihoods of over 220,000 U.S. floral workers and 83,000 farm workers and families in Colombia alone, if the ATPA is not renewed.

Esprit Miami continues to support AFIF in their tireless efforts to lobby the renewal of the ATPA.

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### ABOUT ESPRIT MIAMI, INC.

Esprit Miami, Inc. is a leading provider of fresh cut flowers, bouquets and consumer bunches to the Wholesale Florist and Mass Market industries. Esprit imports its products from around the world including Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Italy.

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