

The Andean Trade Preferences Act

The Andean Trade Preferences Act was an act that was created in the presidency of George W Bush Senior. It essentially eliminates tariffs on exports of certain items from Bolivia, Ecuador, Columbia and Peru entering the United States. It was an attempt to stem the power of the drug trade in those countries, by giving people a better alternative to dealing in drugs.

The program was renewed by the George W Bush Jr. administration when it came time for it to expire. They increased the number of items eligible by quite a lot! The program has always been renewed every year, and this year it will come up for renewal under a new administration, so we'll see how that goes.

Has the Andean Trade Preferences Act worked? Legal trade between the four Andean nations and the United States has increased significantly, but have, apparently, only had a small negative effect the on illegal drug industry. Although the effects are negligible in the United States, the United States Department of Labor said that the program does not appear to have had a negative impact on jobs in the US.

So in conclusion, the program has worked, but probably not the extent that the creators hoped it would. More still needs to be done to stop the drug industry in Andean nations.

Sources

Wikipedia Entry (with lots of checking)