

By: Representatives Hillman, D. Douglas
By: Senators E. Williams, Caldwell, Maloch

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, AND ARKANSAS
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO WORK TO RESTORE TRADE
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, AND
ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO WORK
TO RESTORE TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

WHEREAS, the relationship between the United States and Cuba has been marked by tension, hostility, confrontation, and a fifty-plus year U.S. trade embargo that remains the longest-standing embargo in modern history; and

WHEREAS, Cuba imports more than one billion dollars worth of food every year, including approximately 1.25 million tons of wheat, 500,000 tons of rice, 50,000 tons of poultry, and 75,000 tons of dairy products; and

WHEREAS, Cuba's imports are expected to grow significantly as Cuba slowly recovers from the severe economic recession it has endured following the withdrawal of subsidies from the former Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is the largest industry in Arkansas and a leading employer of Arkansans; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas leads the United States in rice and



poultry production and ranks among the top ten states in production of many other agriculture commodities; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas ranks near the top ten among all states in the overall value of its agricultural exports at approximately three billion dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas is positioned to benefit from the market opportunities that free trade with Cuba would provide due to our agricultural abundance, transportation infrastructure, proximity to Cuba, and the consumer needs of the people of Cuba; and

WHEREAS, rather than depriving Cuba of agricultural products, the United States embargo only succeeds in driving sales to competitors in other countries that have no such restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the United States' trade, financial, and travel restrictions against Cuba hinder Arkansas's export of agricultural and food products and the right of Arkansans to travel freely,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the President and the Congress of the United States consider the removal of trade, financial, and travel restrictions relating to Cuba and work to restore trade relations between the United States and Cuba.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives provide copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, to the President of the Senate of the United States, and to all members of the Arkansas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record.