

By: Representative Joey Carr

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT A
TRADE POLICY THAT SUPPORTS UNITED STATES BUSINESSES
AND WORKERS WHILE PENALIZING GLOBAL POLLUTERS.

Subtitle

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TO ENACT A TRADE POLICY THAT SUPPORTS
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WHEREAS, on average, goods produced in:

(1) China generate three (3) times the emissions of equivalent goods made in the United States; and

(2) Russia emit four (4) times the emissions of equivalent goods made in the United States; and

WHEREAS, minerals mined in China are more than two (2) times as polluting as those mined in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the average pollution intensity of Russian oil is at least thirty-three percent (33%) higher than United States crude oil, and Russian natural gas is sixty percent (60%) more pollution intensive than United States natural gas; and

WHEREAS, many rural Americans are suffering from severe poverty, poor health care, and few economic opportunities, making them increasingly vulnerable to crime and the opioid crisis; and



WHEREAS, the average per capita income for rural Americans is only fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) compared to approximately sixty-four thousand dollars (\$64,000) for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the poverty rate in rural America is fifteen point four percent (15.4%) compared with twelve point eight percent (12.8%) nationwide; and

WHEREAS, United States rural communities have lower wages, property taxes, and land prices, which should give them a competitive advantage in attracting investments in manufacturing that provide revenue streams that help fund local schools and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing jobs play a more important role in the rural economy than in urban areas, accounting for a greater share of jobs and earnings; and

WHEREAS, United States' trade policy, which has given foreign polluters an unfair advantage over the past two (2) decades, has encouraged economic restructuring across rural America that has resulted in manufacturing employment falling by over twenty percent (20%); and

WHEREAS, China has been the major beneficiary of this poorly designed federal trade policy, with the United States losing roughly five million (5,000,000) jobs in the last twenty (20) years, and half of those losses are the result of the United States trade deficit with China; and

WHEREAS, rewarding United States firms for their environmental performance would bolster domestic manufacturing and generate well-paying jobs, particularly in rural areas, and reduce dependence on imports from high emitting producers like Russia and China,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives encourage the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to enact a trade policy that holds high-polluting countries like China and Russia accountable for their pollution output and promotes American economic development and the rebuilding of United States supply chains, particularly in rural communities, by rewarding American businesses and workers for their superior environmental performance while penalizing global polluters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy be provided to the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Arkansas delegation to the United States Congress by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.