

1 SJR17
2 133513-3
3 By Senators Waggoner, Ward, Scofield, Dial and Pittman
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 08-FEB-12

1 SJR17

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4 ENROLLED, SJR17,

5 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES TO INITIATE
6 NEGOTIATIONS TO ENTER INTO A BILATERAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
7 WITH TURKEY.

8
9 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the United
10 States to strengthen US-Turkish relations through productive
11 diplomatic, economy, military, and strategic relations in an
12 increasingly complex world; and

13 WHEREAS, Turkey is a democratic, secular, unitary,
14 constitutional republic, with a rich cultural heritage that
15 spans more than 10,000 years with a westward-looking future;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Turkey is the sixth largest economy in
18 Europe; the sixteenth largest economy in the world, and is the
19 seventh most visited tourism destination in the world; and

20 WHEREAS, Turkey is a founding member of the
21 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
22 and the Group of Twenty (G-20); and

23 WHEREAS, the Turkish Union of Chambers of Commerce
24 and Commodity Exchanges is a leading private sector
25 organization in the global economy; Turkey has signed 16 free

1 trade agreements with several countries and the European Free
2 Trade Association, 14 of which are in effect, and is in
3 negotiations to enter into free trade agreements with several
4 other countries, including Canada, Lebanon, South Africa, and
5 Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, United States' exports account for 6.09
7 percent of goods that enter Turkey; and

8 WHEREAS, closer relations with Turkey through free
9 trade agreements would encourage further privatization in
10 Turkey's economy and support Turkish investment in the State
11 of Alabama; and

12 WHEREAS, from 2000 to 2009, Turkey's imports posted
13 a 158 percent increase and imports from free trade agreement
14 countries increased by 118 percent; and

15 WHEREAS, enriching the economy and cultural heritage
16 of the State of Alabama, Turkey is the featured country of the
17 Birmingham International Center Spotlight Program 2010-11,
18 jointly with the Turkish American Association of Alabama and
19 Assembly of Turkish American Associations; and

20 WHEREAS, many Turkish-Alabamians and many
21 institutions such as Turkish American Chamber of Commerce
22 Southeast, Peace Valley Foundation, and Istanbul Center have
23 been organizing and sponsoring numerous events in the State of
24 Alabama since 2001; these activities have been strengthening

1 the economical, cultural, and social ties between Turkey and
2 Alabama; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we express support for the
5 United States to initiate negotiations to enter into a
6 bilateral free trade agreement with Turkey.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR17

Senate 16-FEB-12

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives

Adopted: 28-FEB-12

By: Senator Waggoner