

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011
4
5 By: Senator E. Williams

SR 3

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

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

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13 **Subtitle**

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

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20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
21 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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23 WHEREAS, the relationship between the United States and Cuba has been
24 marked by tension, hostility, confrontation, and a fifty-year U.S. trade
25 embargo that remains the longest-standing embargo in modern history; and
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27 WHEREAS, Cuba imports nearly one billion dollars worth of food every
28 year, including approximately 1.1 million tons of wheat, 420,000 tons of
29 rice, 37,000 tons of poultry, and 60,000 tons of dairy products; and
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31 WHEREAS, Cuba's imports are expected to grow significantly as Cuba
32 slowly recovers from the severe economic recession it has endured following
33 the withdrawal of subsidies from the former Soviet Union; and
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35 WHEREAS, agriculture is the largest industry in Arkansas; Arkansas
36 ranks near the top ten among states in the overall value of its agricultural



1 exports at approximately three billion dollars annually; thus, Arkansas is
2 ideally positioned to benefit from the market opportunities that free trade
3 with Cuba would provide; and

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5 WHEREAS, rather than depriving Cuba of agricultural products, the U.S.
6 embargo only succeeds in driving sales to competitors in other countries that
7 have no such restrictions; and

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9 WHEREAS, in recent years Cuba has developed important pharmaceutical
10 products, including a new meningitis B vaccine that has virtually eliminated
11 the disease in Cuba, and these products have the potential to protect
12 Americans against diseases that continue to threaten large populations around
13 the world; and

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15 WHEREAS, Cuba's potential oil reserves have attracted the interest of
16 numerous other countries that have been helping Cuba to develop its existing
17 wells and to search for new reserves while Cuba's oil output has increased
18 more than 400 percent over the last decade; and

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20 WHEREAS, The United States' trade, financial, and travel restrictions
21 against Cuba hinder Arkansas's export of agricultural and food products, its
22 ability to import critical energy products, the treatment of illnesses
23 experienced by Arkansans, and the right of Arkansans to travel freely,

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25 NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
27 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary of the Senate forward official
34 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the
35 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of
36 the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Arkansas delegation

1 to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered
2 in the Congressional Record.

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