

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIGUEZ AND GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to enact a trade policy that supports United States businesses and workers while penalizing global polluters.

WHEREAS, Chinese government owned industry is an arm of the communist party and strives to increase its influence over the global economy by pursuing predatory, unfair trade practices designed to steal intellectual property and destroy competition from the United States; and

WHEREAS, China's dominance of key components of the global supply chain, including those related to critical minerals, represents a threat to United States economic security and economic and social development; and

WHEREAS, China, by far the world's largest polluter, accounts for approximately thirty percent of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and subsidizes its exports by not imposing or enforcing reasonable environmental and labor standards; and

WHEREAS, the United States has eliminated more carbon emissions than any other country in the last fifteen years, and its economy is forty-four percent more carbon efficient than the world average; and

WHEREAS, United States' manufacturers are more efficient in nearly every industry from steel to solar panels to automobiles and yet are forced to compete with companies in China and elsewhere that face few limits on how much they pollute; and

WHEREAS, goods produced in China, on average, generate three times the CO2 emissions of equivalent goods made in the United States, and goods produced in Russia emit four times the emissions; and

WHEREAS, minerals mined in China are more than twice as carbon intensive as those mined in the United States, the average carbon intensity of Russian oil is at least thirty-three percent higher than United States oil, and Russian natural gas is sixty percent more greenhouse gas intensive than United States natural gas; and

WHEREAS, many rural Americans are being left behind economically, 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 forty-six thousand dollars, compared to roughly sixty thousand dollars for all Americans, and the poverty rate in rural America is fourteen and four-tenths percent, compared with eleven and nine-tenths percent 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 decades, has encouraged economic restructuring across rural America that has resulted in manufacturing employment falling by close to thirty percent; and

WHEREAS, China has been the major beneficiary of this poorly designed federal trade policy, with the United States losing roughly five million jobs in the last twenty 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 good paying jobs, particularly in rural areas, and reduce dependence on imports from high emitting producers like Russia and China.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize 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 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 a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES