

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 712

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should initiate negotiations to enter into a bilateral free trade agreement with the Republic of South Africa.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2014

Mr. RUSH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should initiate negotiations to enter into a bilateral free trade agreement with the Republic of South Africa.

Whereas South Africa is the 34th largest economy in the world and is a member of the Group of Twenty (G-20) and in a “enhanced engagement” partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

Whereas South Africa has signed 12 trade agreements with several countries and the European Free Trade Association, 4 of which are free trade agreements;

Whereas South Africa has concluded two trade agreements with the United States as well as successfully partici-

pated in the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA);

Whereas United States exports to South Africa totaled \$10 billion in 2012;

Whereas South Africa is currently the United States 38th largest trading partner for goods with \$15.8 billion in total trade in goods in 2013;

Whereas South Africa was the United States 36th largest export market for goods in 2013;

Whereas the amount of United States exports of goods to South Africa in 2013 was \$7.3 billion, an increase of 159 percent from 2003;

Whereas United States exports of agricultural products to South Africa totaled \$295 million in 2013 with leading categories including dairy products, wheat, planting seeds, and poultry;

Whereas the amount of United States exports of private commercial services (excluding military and government) to South Africa was \$2.7 billion in 2012, an increase of 115 percent from 2002 levels;

Whereas South Africa is a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic, with a proud heritage that shares many of the fundamental values of the United States;

Whereas South Africa is the largest, most diversified, highly industrialized economy in Africa;

Whereas the average per capita income in South Africa is among the highest of African countries; and

Whereas closer relations with South Africa through free trade agreements would encourage further privatization in South Africa's economy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 representatives that the United States should initiate negotia-
3 tions to enter into a bilateral free trade agreement with
4 the Republic of South Africa.

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