
Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

*Introduced by: Dobis, Bauer, Aguilera, Chowning,
Harris, Liggett, Kromkowski, Pflum, Stilwell, Dickinson,
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A HOUSE RESOLUTION concerning Indiana job loss and
United States trade policy.

*Whereas, Manufacturing jobs, which build and sustain
America's middle class, are disappearing; the United States
has lost more than 2,000,000 manufacturing jobs since 2001;*

Whereas, The creation of the World Trade Organization

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and the strong bipartisan support and passage of trade agreements, such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement, occurred amidst promises from leadership of both parties that the benefits would far outweigh the negative effects;

Whereas, The annual trade deficit has hit a record high of over \$450 billion, growing by more than 600% in the past ten years;

Whereas, The trade deficit with China accounted for a quarter of the record trade deficit, amounting to \$114.09 billion in unadjusted figures;

Whereas, The trade deficit with Canada and Mexico has ballooned to nine times its size before the passage of NAFTA;

Whereas, The current administration is working on a new trade agreement, Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which is expected to be presented to the United States Congress in 2005, and has recently endorsed the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA); and

Whereas, The tremendous effects of the manufacturing crisis in Indiana are obvious on the tax base and budgets and local, county, and state governments, schools, and public services: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the President of the United States and Congress
2 are urged to address the adverse effects on trade in this nation due to
3 the misalignment and manipulation of currency by the Chinese, other
4 East Asian governments, and any other countries that artificially lower
5 the value of their currency relative to the dollar.
6 SECTION 2. That the President of the United States and Congress
7 are urged to level the playing field for companies and workers across
8 international borders by ensuring that international trade agreements
9 require that corporations pay fair and competitive wages, respect the
10 right to unionize, and adopt workplace safety and antipollution standards



1 equivalent to those in the United States.

2 SECTION 3. That the President of the United States and Congress
3 are urged to reassess the goals of United States trade policies and the
4 effectiveness of agreements that have been reached in the past.

5 SECTION 4. That the President of the United States and Congress
6 are urged to promote economic development initiatives both at home
7 and abroad and provide economic incentives in the form of grants to
8 sectors that have experienced record job loss since the passage of
9 NAFTA, namely manufacturers and small business owners. This action
10 would force reinvestment in American products and services as well as
11 reinvigorate our economy.

12 SECTION 5. That the President of the United States and Congress
13 are urged to reconsider steel tariffs on foreign-produced steel.

14 SECTION 6. That the President of the United States and Congress
15 are urged to assess the rapid impact of import growth in the economy
16 versus exports and the effects this trend is having on the economy,
17 forcing the record current trade deficit the country is experiencing to
18 be addressed.

19 SECTION 7. That the Interim House Study Committee on
20 International Trade and Labor Issues held four meetings during the
21 2003 legislative interim in four geographically and economically diverse
22 areas of the state: Indianapolis, Gary, Fort Wayne, and Jasper.
23 Testimony at each of these meetings was passionate, and committee
24 members heard from Hoosiers who represented a variety of different
25 sectors of Indiana's economy. Farmers, small business owners,
26 workers, labor unions, large and small employers, academics,
27 congressional aides, and trade experts all testified before the committee
28 on the negative effects unfair trade agreements have had on them
29 personally, their families, communities, this state, and their jobs.

30 SECTION 8. That the Speaker of the House of Representatives is
31 encouraged to dispatch a bipartisan group to meet with the Indiana
32 congressional delegation and the appropriate agencies to convey the
33 impact these unfair trade practices are having on the Indiana
34 manufacturing sector.

35 SECTION 9. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
36 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the
37 United States and each member of the Indiana congressional delegation.

