

1 SJR43
2 174188-2
3 By Senators Waggoner, Figures and Dial
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 01-MAR-16

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 URGING CONGRESS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE
9 CUBAN GOVERNMENT AND LIFT THE CURRENT EMBARGO AND OTHER TRADE
10 BARRIERS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA.
11

12 WHEREAS, for more than five decades, the United
13 States has maintained, through the most comprehensive set of
14 economic sanctions levied against any nation, a strict embargo
15 with the Republic of Cuba; through various federal acts,
16 regulations, and presidential orders, the embargo places
17 significant restrictions and prohibitions on American-Cuban
18 relationships, notable on trade, travel, and financial
19 transactions; and

20 WHEREAS, U.S. laws and regulations make American
21 exports to Cuba difficult and burdensome, if not outright
22 prohibited; under provisions from the TSRA and export
23 regulations from the Department of Commerce, U.S. food and
24 agricultural entities are legally permitted to export to the
25 island nation, but doing so requires prior permission from the
26 Department of Commerce and compliance with numerous federal
27 export regulations; despite the ability to legally export,

1 financial restrictions limit the ability of American entities
2 to competitively serve the market, allowing international
3 competitors to capitalize off potential U.S. market share; and

4 WHEREAS, relaxing restrictions and prohibitions on
5 U.S. exports to Cuba will present new opportunities to grow
6 Alabama's and our nation's agricultural sector and create jobs
7 in rural communities across the U.S.; and

8 WHEREAS, currently, Alabama exports \$32,000,000
9 annually in agricultural products to Cuba and there exists
10 historical, cultural and commercial ties between Alabama and
11 Cuba and Mobile, Alabama, and Havana, Cuba, are sister cities;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, many opportunities are opening with regard
14 to trade with Cuba, which will benefit Alabama manufacturing,
15 agricultural, industries, and small businesses and Alabama
16 with its world class port and close proximity to Cuba to ship
17 products to the Cuban market; and

18 WHEREAS, the Republic of Cuba, home to more than 11
19 million consumers in close proximity to the U.S., is a logical
20 target for expanded U.S. food and agricultural exports;
21 normalizing trade relations between the U.S. and Cuba will
22 enhance Cuban citizens' access to affordable food while
23 providing the U.S. farm and business community with new market
24 access opportunities; normalized trade will drive growth in
25 both countries and allow U.S. farmers, ranchers, and food
26 companies to efficiently contribute to the food security needs
27 of the Cuban citizenry; and

1 WHEREAS, ending the American embargo against Cuba
2 will boost the Cuban economy and lead to an improved quality
3 of life for the Cuban people; through congressional action,
4 breaking down the barriers between Americans and Cubans will
5 expand diplomatic relations, travel, partnerships, and trade,
6 allowing all citizens the opportunity to discover and
7 reconnect on mutual interests, benefiting Cubans and Americans
8 alike; now therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge the Congress of the
11 United States to normalize relations with the Cuban government
12 and lift the current embargo and other trade barriers with the
13 Republic of Cuba.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend the Alabama
15 tractor company Cleber as it will be the first U.S. company to
16 build a factory and invest in Cuba since 1959.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
18 resolution be transmitted to the President of the United
19 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
20 Representatives, and the members of the Alabama congressional
21 delegation.