

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

1 SJR43

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4 ENROLLED, SJR43,

5 URGING CONGRESS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE
6 CUBAN GOVERNMENT AND LIFT THE CURRENT EMBARGO AND OTHER TRADE
7 BARRIERS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA.

8
9 WHEREAS, for more than five decades, the United
10 States has maintained, through the most comprehensive set of
11 economic sanctions levied against any nation, a strict embargo
12 with the Republic of Cuba; through various federal acts,
13 regulations, and presidential orders, the embargo places
14 significant restrictions and prohibitions on American-Cuban
15 relationships, notable on trade, travel, and financial
16 transactions; and

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

1 to competitively serve the market, allowing international
2 competitors to capitalize off potential U.S. market share; and

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

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

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

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

1 companies to efficiently contribute to the food security needs
2 of the Cuban citizenry; and

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

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

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

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

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR43
Senate 03-MAR-16
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 22-MAR-16

By: Senator Waggoner