

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 217

Expressing the sense of the Congress that Miami, Florida, and not a competing foreign city, should serve as the permanent location for the Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) beginning in 2005.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 1, 1999

Mr. SHAW (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GOSS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. THURMAN, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. MICA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. FOWLER, and Mr. BILIRAKIS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that Miami, Florida, and not a competing foreign city, should serve as the permanent location for the Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) beginning in 2005.

Whereas deliberations on establishing a “Free Trade Area of the Americas” (FTAA) will help facilitate greater cooperation and understanding on trade barrier reduction throughout the Americas;

Whereas the trade ministers of 34 countries of the Western Hemisphere agreed in 1998 to create a permanent Secre-

tariat in order to support negotiations on establishing the FTAA;

Whereas the FTAA Secretariat will employ persons to provide logistical, administrative, archival, translation, publication, and distribution support for the negotiations;

Whereas the FTAA Secretariat will be funded by a combination of local resources and institutional resources from a tripartite committee consisting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organization of American States (OAS), and the United Nations Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC);

Whereas the temporary site of the FTAA Secretariat will be located in Miami, Florida, from 1999 until February 28, 2001, at which point the Secretariat will rotate to Panama City, Panama, until February 28, 2003, and then rotate to Mexico City, Mexico, until February 28, 2005;

Whereas by 2005 the FTAA Secretariat will have international institution status providing jobs and tremendous economic benefits to its host city;

Whereas a permanent site for the FTAA Secretariat after 2005 will likely be selected from among the 3 temporary host cities;

Whereas the city of Miami, Miami-Dade County, and the State of Florida have long served as the gateway for trade with the Caribbean and Latin America;

Whereas trade between the city of Miami, Florida, and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean totaled \$36,793,000,000 in 1998;

Whereas the Miami-Dade area and the State of Florida possess the necessary infrastructure, local resources, and

culture necessary for the FTAA Secretariat's permanent site;

Whereas the United States possesses the world's largest economy and is the leading proponent of trade liberalization throughout the world; and

Whereas the city of Miami, Florida, the State of Florida, and the United States are uniquely situated among other competing locations to host the "Brussels of the Western Hemisphere": Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the  
 3 President should direct the United States representative  
 4 to the "Free Trade Area of the Americas" (FTAA) nego-  
 5 tiations to use all available means in order to secure  
 6 Miami, Florida, as the permanent site of the FTAA Secre-  
 7 tariat after February 28, 2005.

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