

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 384

Calling on the United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky to make the issue of runaway film production and cultural content restrictions an issue at the World Trade Organization talks in Seattle.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 1999

Mr. WELLER (for himself, Mr. ROGAN, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. McKEON, Mr. BUYER, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. McINTYRE, Mrs. BONO, Mr. KUYKENDALL, Mr. HAYES, and Mr. CONDIT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

RESOLUTION

Calling on the United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky to make the issue of runaway film production and cultural content restrictions an issue at the World Trade Organization talks in Seattle.

Whereas the House of Representatives is concerned that some countries are using incentives, and asserting the need for special exceptions to international trade agreements to protect cultural content or cultural sovereignty, to lure United States film production away from the United States and believes that the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial meeting to be held in Seattle, Washington, and the multilateral negotiations that are

expected to follow, provide an opportunity for the United States to address this problem;

Whereas the United States film industry is a basic and indigenous institution to the United States which lost jobs to foreign countries last year;

Whereas some countries have been using incentives to bring United States film productions to foreign soil, yet in some cases cultural content rules restrict these films from being shown in these countries; and

Whereas it is important that the United States and its WTO trading partners take advantage of opportunities to discuss the impact that incentives and cultural content restrictions have on trade in filmed entertainment: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives calls
2 upon the United States Trade Representative—

3 (1) to consider the issues of runaway film pro-
4 duction and market access for American-filmed en-
5 tertainment as a part of the discussion at the WTO
6 talks in Seattle,

7 (2) to ensure that the United States enter into
8 discussions with its trading partners and take steps
9 to address a set of issues that threaten employment
10 and trade in one of America's most successful indus-
11 tries, and

12 (3) as a top priority of the United States at the
13 WTO talks in Seattle, to make effective use of trade
14 agreements to liberalize cultural content restrictions

- 1 while addressing countries cultural content and cul-
- 2 tural sovereignty concerns.

