

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 55

Establishing objectives for the next round of multilateral trade negotiations.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 8, 1999

Mr. BAUCUS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred  
to the Committee on Finance

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing objectives for the next round of multilateral  
trade negotiations.

Whereas obtaining open, equitable, and reciprocal market access will benefit both the United States and its trading partners;

Whereas eliminating or reducing trade barriers and trade distorting practices will enhance export opportunities for American industry, agricultural products, and services;

Whereas strengthening international disciplines on restrictive or trade-distorting import and export practices will improve the global commercial environment;

Whereas preserving existing rules that prohibit unfair trade practices is a necessary adjunct to promoting commerce;

Whereas expanding trade will foster economic growth required for full employment in the United States and the global economy;

Whereas growth in international trade has immediate and significant consequences for sound natural resource use and environmental protection, and for the practice of sustainable development;

Whereas the World Trade Organization is the single most important mechanism by which global commerce is regulated; and

Whereas the United States will host the World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting in Seattle in November 1999:  
Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2       *concurring),*

3       **SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4       It is the sense of Congress that the executive branch  
5       of the Government should pursue the objectives described  
6       in this concurrent resolution in any negotiations undertaken with respect to the next round of multilateral trade  
7       negotiations at the World Trade Organization Ministerial  
8       Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

10       **SEC. 2. AGRICULTURE.**

11       The negotiating objectives of the United States with  
12       respect to agriculture should be the following:

13               (1) To eliminate all current and prohibit all future price subsidies and export taxes.

1           (2) To negotiate stronger disciplines on state-  
2           owned trading enterprises, including cross-subsidiza-  
3           tion, reserved market share, and price undercutting.

4           (3) With respect to tariffs, to pursue zero-for-  
5           zero or harmonization agreements for products  
6           where current tariff levels are so disparate that pro-  
7           portional reductions would yield an unbalanced re-  
8           sult.

9           (4) To target peak tariffs for reduction on a  
10          specific timetable.

11          (5) To eliminate all tariffs that are less than 5  
12          percent.

13          (6) To negotiate an agreement that binds all  
14          tariffs at zero wherever possible.

15          (7) To phase out all tariff rate quotas.

16          (8) To eliminate all market-distorting domestic  
17          subsidies.

18          (9) To eliminate technology-based discrimina-  
19          tion of agricultural commodities.

20          (10) To negotiate agriculture and nonagri-  
21          culture issues as a single undertaking, with full im-  
22          plementation of any early agreement contingent on  
23          an acceptable final package.

24          (11) To reach agreements to eliminate unilat-  
25          eral agricultural sanctions as a tool of foreign policy.

1 **SEC. 3. SERVICES.**

2 The negotiating objectives of the United States with  
3 respect to services should be the following:

4 (1) To achieve binding commitments on market  
5 access and national treatment.

6 (2) To achieve broad participation from all  
7 World Trade Organization members in the negotia-  
8 tion of any agreement.

9 (3) To proceed on a “negative list” basis so  
10 that all services will be covered unless specifically  
11 listed.

12 (4) To prevent discrimination based on the  
13 mode of delivery, including electronic delivery.

14 (5) To negotiate disciplines on transparency  
15 and responsiveness of domestic regulations of serv-  
16 ices.

17 **SEC. 4. INDUSTRIAL MARKET ACCESS.**

18 The negotiating objectives of the United States with  
19 respect to industrial market access should be the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 (1) To pursue zero-for-zero or harmonization  
22 agreements for products where current tariff levels  
23 are so disparate that proportional reductions would  
24 yield an unbalanced result.

25 (2) To target peak tariffs for reduction on a  
26 specific timetable.

1           (3) To eliminate all tariffs that are less than 5  
2     percent.

3           (4) To negotiate agreements that bind tariffs at  
4     zero wherever possible.

5           (5) To achieve broad participation in all harmo-  
6     nization efforts.

7           (6) To expand the Information Technology  
8     Agreement product coverage and participation.

9           (7) To make duty-free treatment of electronic  
10    transmissions permanent.

11          (8) To negotiate short timetables for acceler-  
12    ated tariff elimination in sectors identified in prior  
13    international trade meetings, particularly in environ-  
14    mental goods.

15 **SEC. 5. OTHER TRADE-RELATED ISSUES.**

16       The negotiating objectives of the United States with  
17    respect to other trade-related issues should be the fol-  
18    lowing:

19          (1) To achieve broad participation in Mutual  
20    Recognition Agreements (MRA's) on product stand-  
21    ards, conformity assessment, and certification proce-  
22    dures.

23          (2) To expand the scope of the Government  
24    Procurement Agreement and make it part of the  
25    World Trade Organization undertaking.

1           (3) To strengthen protection of intellectual  
2 property, including patents, trademarks, trade se-  
3 crets, and industrial layout.

4           (4) To complete the harmonization of rules of  
5 origin.

6           (5) To strengthen prohibitions against manda-  
7 tory technology transfer under the Trade-Related In-  
8 vestment Measures Agreement.

9           (6) To broaden agreements on customs-related  
10 issues to facilitate the rapid movement of goods.

11           (7) To make permanent and binding the mora-  
12 torium on tariffs on electronic transmissions.

13           (8) To establish a consensus that electronic  
14 commerce is neither exclusively a good nor exclu-  
15 sively a service, and develop rules for transparency,  
16 notification, and review of domestic regulations.

17           (9) To reach a global agreement on liberal  
18 treatment of digital products in a technologically  
19 neutral manner.

20           (10) To negotiate an agreement for determining  
21 when multilateral environmental agreements are con-  
22 sistent with the principles of the World Trade Orga-  
23 nization.

1           (11) To undertake early review of potential en-  
 2           vironmental impacts of all global agreements with a  
 3           view toward mitigating any adverse effects.

4           (12) To reach agreement that goods and serv-  
 5           ices produced by forced, prison, or child labor are  
 6           not protected by international trade rules.

7           (13) To establish a mechanism for joint re-  
 8           search and between the World Trade Organization  
 9           and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

10          (14) To institute explicit procedures for inclu-  
 11          sion of core labor standards in the country reports  
 12          of the World Trade Organization Trade Policy Re-  
 13          view Mechanism.

14 **SEC. 6. WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION INSTITUTIONAL**  
 15 **ISSUES.**

16          The negotiating objectives of the United States with  
 17          respect to World Trade Organization institutional issues  
 18          should be the following:

19               (1) To reach agreement not to implement any  
 20               new trade restrictive measures during the 3-year ne-  
 21               gotiating period beginning with the Seattle Ministe-  
 22               rial Meeting.

23               (2) To broaden membership in the World Trade  
 24               Organization by accelerating accessions.

1           (3) To shorten the timeframes of dispute reso-  
2       lution.

3           (4) To increase transparency, citizen access,  
4       and responsiveness to submissions from nongovern-  
5       mental organizations.

6           (5) To strengthen disciplines governing the cov-  
7       erage and implementation of free trade agreements.

8           (6) To reach an agreement to cooperate with  
9       the International Monetary Fund, the International  
10      Bank for Reconstruction and Development, United  
11      Nations organizations, and international economic  
12      institutions in trade-related policy matters.

13 **SEC. 7. ISSUES NOT OPEN TO NEGOTIATION.**

14       In all negotiations, the United States Trade Rep-  
15      resentative should ensure that the negotiations do not  
16      weaken existing agreements or create opportunities for the  
17      imposition of new barriers in the following areas:

18           (1) Dumping and antidumping.

19           (2) Competition policy.

20           (3) Investment.

21           (4) Textiles and apparel.

22 **SEC. 8. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.**

23       The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy  
24      of this concurrent resolution to the President.

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