

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 35

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the upcoming trip of President George W. Bush to Mexico to meet with newly elected President Vicente Fox, and with respect to future cooperative efforts between the United States and Mexico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Mr. GOSS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the upcoming trip of President George W. Bush to Mexico to meet with newly elected President Vicente Fox, and with respect to future cooperative efforts between the United States and Mexico.

Whereas Vicente Fox Quesada of the Alliance for Change (consisting of the National Action Party and the Mexican Green Party) was sworn in as President of the United Mexican States on December 1, 2000, the first opposition candidate to be elected president in Mexico in seven decades;

Whereas the United States, as Mexico's neighbor, ally, and partner in the Hemisphere, has a strong interest in see-

ing President Fox advance prosperity and democracy during his term of office;

Whereas President George W. Bush and President Vicente Fox have demonstrated their mutual willingness to forge a deeper alliance between the United States and Mexico by making President Bush's first foreign trip as President of the United States to Mexico on February 16, 2001;

Whereas both presidents recognize that a strong, steady Mexican economy can be the foundation to help solve many of the challenges shared by the two countries, such as immigration, environmental quality, organized crime, corruption, and trafficking in illicit narcotics;

Whereas the economic cooperation spearheaded by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has established Mexico as the second largest trading partner of the United States, with a two-way trade of \$174,000,000,000 each year;

Whereas the North American Development Bank and its sister institution, the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, were established to promote environmental infrastructure development that meets the needs of border communities;

Whereas the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, an independent self-sustaining United States Government agency responsible for facilitating the investment of United States private sector capital in emerging markets, has recently developed a small business-financing program to support United States investment in Mexico;

Whereas under the North American Free Trade Agreement the United States currently has an annual limit on the

number of visas that may be issued to Mexican business executives for entry into the United States but there is no such limit with respect to the Canadian business executives;

Whereas United States-Mexico border tensions have continued to escalate, with the number of illegal migrant deaths increasing 400 percent since the mid 1990s; and

Whereas the Government of Mexico, through the establishment of a special cabinet commission, has made a renewed commitment, with increased resources, to combat drug trafficking and corruption: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the
 3 President should work with the Government of Mexico to
 4 advance bilateral cooperation and should, among other ini-
 5 tiatives, seek to—

6 (1) encourage economic growth and develop-
 7 ment to benefit both the United States and Mexico,
 8 including developing a common strategy to improve
 9 the flow of credit and United States investment op-
 10 portunities in Mexico, as well as increasing funding
 11 of entrepreneurial programs of all sizes, from micro-
 12 to large-scale enterprises;

13 (2) strengthen cooperation between the United
 14 States and Mexican military and law enforcement
 15 entities for the purpose of addressing common
 16 threats to the security of the two countries, includ-

1 ing illegal drug trafficking, illegal immigration, and
2 money laundering;

3 (3) upon the request of President Fox—

4 (A) provide assistance to Mexico in support
5 of President Fox's plan to reform Mexico's en-
6 tire judicial system and combat inherent cor-
7 ruption within Mexico's law enforcement sys-
8 tem; and

9 (B) provide assistance to the Government
10 of Mexico to strengthen the institutions that
11 are integral to democracy;

12 (4) develop a common strategy to address un-
13 documented and documented immigration between
14 the United States and Mexico through increased co-
15 operation, coordination, and economic development
16 programs;

17 (5) develop a common strategy for fighting the
18 illicit drug trade by reducing the demand for illicit
19 drugs through intensification of anti-drug informa-
20 tion and education, improvement of intelligence
21 sharing and the coordination of counterdrug activi-
22 ties, and increasing maritime and logistics coopera-
23 tion to improve the respective capacities of the two
24 countries to disrupt drug shipments by land, air,
25 and sea;

1 (6) encourage bilateral and multilateral environ-
2 mental protection activities with Mexico, including
3 strengthening the North American Development
4 Bank (NADbank) so as to facilitate expansion of the
5 bank;

6 (7) obtain the support of the Government of
7 Mexico to assist the Government of Colombia in
8 achieving a peaceful political resolution to the con-
9 flict in Colombia; and

10 (8) review the current illicit drug certification
11 process, and should seek to be open to consideration
12 of other evaluation mechanisms that would promote
13 increased cooperation and effectiveness in combating
14 the illicit drug trade.

15 SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives
16 shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the
17 President.

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