

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 331

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should seek to enter into a free trade agreement with the United Kingdom.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2003

Mr. SOUDER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should seek to enter into a free trade agreement with the United Kingdom.

Whereas a close, unique economic, cultural, and strategic relationship exists between the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; law, language, literature, common conceptions of what is right and decent, a marked regard for fair play, especially to the weak and poor, a stern sentiment of impartial justice, and above all the love of personal freedom are common conceptions on both sides of the ocean among the English-speaking peoples;

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom have the largest and the fourth largest economies in the world, respectively; direct foreign investment flowing between the

United States and the United Kingdom totals nearly \$400,000,000,000; this relationship, the largest in the world, helps to sustain more than 1,000,000 American jobs;

Whereas economic growth in the United States has been considerably enhanced by bilateral agreements to lower barriers for United States exports; a report by the International Trade Commission estimates that the elimination of tariffs between the United States and the United Kingdom would result in an 11 to 16 percent increase in exports from the United States to the United Kingdom;

Whereas the purpose of a free trade area should be to facilitate trade between constituent territories and not to raise trade barriers against others; trade barriers, by increasing the final price of imported goods to consumers or limiting their availability in other ways, can directly inhibit consumer freedom and reduce consumer welfare;

Whereas countries that open their domestic markets, remove barriers to foreign direct investment, and promote free enterprise empower their citizens to alleviate poverty; both the United States and the United Kingdom have sought to expand the idea of free trade through bilateral and multilateral agreements and international organizations;

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom are both members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its predecessor the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), whose agreements and documents guarantee the right of countries to enter into free trade agreements with other countries;

Whereas on August 6, 2002, the President signed into law H.R. 3009 (Public Law 107–210), the Trade Act of 2002, which provides for an expedited procedure for congressional consideration of international trade agreements; and

Whereas the United States Senate has previously expressed its support for a free trade agreement with the United Kingdom: 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 take the necessary steps to conclude a
4 free trade agreement between the United States and the
5 United Kingdom.

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