

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 98

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to free trade negotiations that could adversely impact the sugar industry of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CASE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to free trade negotiations that could adversely impact the sugar industry of the United States.

Whereas the President concluded negotiations with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua to form a Central American Free Trade Agreement (referred to in this resolution as “CAFTA”), and the Dominican Republic joined the agreement in August of 2004;

Whereas CAFTA seeks to provide those countries with increased access to the United States sugar market;

Whereas simultaneously, the Administration has embarked on a multitude of free trade agreements with major sugar producing nations such as members of the South Africa Customs Union, Thailand, nations of the Western Hemisphere, and others, and has made it clear that access to the United States sugar market is on the negotiating table;

Whereas the United States sugar market is already over-supplied, with declining consumption forcing domestic sugar producers to store extremely high quantities of sugar;

Whereas significant increases in sugar imports under CAFTA and other trade agreements currently under negotiation could render inoperable basic elements of the United States sugar program enacted under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171);

Whereas effects on the United States sugar program would wreak havoc in the United States sugar industry, and result in the loss of thousands of jobs and farms involved in sugar production in 19 States across the country; and

Whereas any constructive effort to address distortion in the world sugar market should be handled multilaterally through the World Trade Organization, in a manner that addresses comprehensively and simultaneously the sugar subsidy programs of all major world producers, and should not be handled through bilateral or regional agreements: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
- 2 resentatives that—

6 (2) the President should not include sugar as
7 an element of negotiations in any bilateral or re-
8 gional free trade agreement.