

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 111

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should expand trade opportunities with Mongolia and initiate negotiations to enter into a free trade agreement with Mongolia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2006

Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. GREGG) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should expand trade opportunities with Mongolia and initiate negotiations to enter into a free trade agreement with Mongolia.

Whereas Mongolia declared an end to a one-party Communist state in 1990 and embarked on democratic and free-market reforms;

Whereas these reforms included adopting democratic electoral processes, enacting further political reform measures, privatizing state enterprises, lifting price controls, and improving fiscal discipline;

Whereas since 1990, Mongolia has made progress to strengthen democratic governing institutions and protect individual rights;

Whereas the Department of State found in its 2005 Human Rights Report that Mongolia generally respected the human rights of its citizens although concerns remain, including the treatment of prisoners, freedom of the press and information, due process, and trafficking in persons;

Whereas the Department of State found in its 2005 Religious Freedom Report that Mongolia generally respects freedom of religion, although some concerns remain;

Whereas Mongolia has been a member of the World Trade Organization since 1997, and a member of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank since 1991;

Whereas in 1999 the United States provided permanent normal trade relations treatment to the products of Mongolia;

Whereas the United States and Mongolia signed a bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 2004;

Whereas Mongolia has expressed steadfast commitment to greater economic reforms, including a commitment to encourage and expand the role of the private sector, increase transparency, strengthen the rule of law, combat corruption, and comply with international standards for labor and intellectual property rights protection;

Whereas bilateral trade between the United States and Mongolia in 2005 was valued at more than \$165,000,000;

Whereas Mongolia has provided strong and consistent support to the United States in the global war on terror, including support for United States military forces and,

since May 2003, contributed peace keepers to Operation Iraqi Freedom, artillery trainers to Operation Enduring Freedom, and personnel to the United Nations peace-keeping operations in Kosovo and Sierra Leone;

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;

Whereas on July 15, 2004, President Bush and President Bagabandi issued a joint statement that declared a new era of cooperation and comprehensive partnership between the two democratic countries based on shared values and common strategic interests;

Whereas in November 2005, President George W. Bush became the first President of the United States to visit Mongolia, and on November 21, 2005, President Bush and President Enkhbayar issued a joint statement declaring that the two countries are committed to defining guiding principles and expanding the framework of the comprehensive partnership between the United States and Mongolia; and

Whereas the United States and Mongolia would benefit from expanding and diversifying trade opportunities by reducing tariff and nontariff barriers to trade: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the
- 3 United States should continue to work with Mongolia to
- 4 expand bilateral United States-Mongolia trade opportuni-

- 1 ties and initiate negotiations to enter into a free trade
- 2 agreement with Mongolia.

