

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3685

To direct the United States Trade Representative to initiate negotiations with the Government of the Republic of Turkey to seek to enter into a bilateral free trade agreement with Turkey.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2015

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To direct the United States Trade Representative to initiate negotiations with the Government of the Republic of Turkey to seek to enter into a bilateral free trade agreement with Turkey.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may cited as the “United States-Turkey  
5       Free Trade Promotion Act of 2015”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The friendship between the United States  
2           and the Republic of Turkey dates back to 1831,  
3           when the United States formed diplomatic ties with  
4           the Ottoman Empire.

5           (2) Modern diplomatic relations between the  
6           United States and Turkey date back nearly a cen-  
7           tury to 1927.

8           (3) Turkey has been a member country of the  
9           North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since  
10          1952.

11          (4) Turkey is a democratic, secular, unitary,  
12          constitutional republic, with an ancient cultural her-  
13          itage and westward-looking future.

14          (5) Turkey is the 18th largest economy in the  
15          world and a founding member of the Organisation  
16          for Economic Co-operation and Development  
17          (OECD), World Trade Organization (WTO), and  
18          the Group of Twenty (G-20).

19          (6) Turkey continues to be a critical strategic  
20          ally to the United States as a Western Eurasian  
21          country adjacent to Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

22          (7) The economic viability of Turkey brings es-  
23          sential strength and stability to the region.

24          (8) Turkey is currently a party to 18 free trade  
25          agreements, 16 of them entered into force over the

1 past 15 years, during which time Turkey's Gross  
2 Domestic Product has more than tripled.

3 (9) Turkey's trade volume with the European  
4 Union is \$150 billion as of 2014 while Turkey's  
5 trade volume with the United States is only \$19.4  
6 billion, reflecting a tremendous growth opportunity.

7 (10) From 2001 to 2014, Turkey's imports  
8 posted a 584-percent increase and imports from free  
9 trade agreement countries increased by 537 percent.

10 (11) Turkey is in negotiations to enter into free  
11 trade agreements with several additional partners,  
12 including Japan, Mexico, Singapore, MERCOSUR,  
13 and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

14 (12) United States exports account for 5.3 per-  
15 cent of goods that enter Turkey.

16 (13) There is significant opportunity to improve  
17 the free flow of goods and services between the  
18 United States and Turkey.

19 (14) Closer relations with Turkey through free  
20 trade agreements would encourage further privatiza-  
21 tion in Turkey's economy.

22 (15) A free trade agreement between the  
23 United States and Turkey will foster economic and  
24 commercial cooperation and strengthen ties with

1 Turkey, increase bilateral investment opportunities,  
2 and contribute to jobs created for American workers.

3 **SEC. 3. NEGOTIATIONS TO SEEK TO ENTER INTO A BILAT-**  
4 **ERAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE**  
5 **REPUBLIC OF TURKEY.**

6 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
7 ment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative  
8 shall initiate negotiations with the Government of the Re-  
9 public of Turkey to seek to enter into a bilateral free trade  
10 agreement with Turkey that, among other things, pro-  
11 motes the exportation and importation of natural re-  
12 sources, including coal, between the United States and  
13 Turkey.

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