

House Concurrent Resolution No. 15

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LOVE.

1505H.011

1 **WHEREAS**, the relationship between the United States and Cuba has been marked by
2 tension, hostility, confrontation, and a fifty-plus year U.S. trade embargo that remains the longest
3 standing embargo in modern history; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, Cuba imports more than one billion dollars worth of food every year,
6 including approximately 1.25 million tons of wheat, 500,000 tons of rice, 50,000 tons of poultry,
7 and 75,000 tons of dairy products; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, Cuba's imports are expected to grow significantly as Cuba slowly recovers
10 from the severe economic recession it has endured following the withdrawal of subsidies from
11 the former Soviet Union; and
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13 **WHEREAS**, agriculture is the largest industry in Missouri and a leading employer of
14 Missourians; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, Missouri ranks among the top ten states in production of many agricultural
17 commodities, including soybeans, corn, and pork; and
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19 **WHEREAS**, Missouri ranks eleventh among all states in the overall value of its
20 agricultural exports at approximately 4 billion dollars annually; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, since the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act (TSRA)
23 was implemented in 2000, the United States has exported nearly \$5 billion worth of agricultural
24 products to Cuba; and
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26 **WHEREAS**, the United States market share has recently declined due to increased
27 competition from countries that can provide favorable credit terms that the United States is
28 prohibited from offering and the prohibition against providing market development assistance
29 under the TSRA; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, Missouri is positioned to benefit from the market opportunities that free
32 trade with Cuba would provide due to our agricultural abundance, transportation infrastructure,
33 and the consumer needs of the people of Cuba; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, rather than depriving Cuba of agricultural products, the United States
36 embargo only succeeds in driving sales to competitors in other countries that have no such
37 restrictions; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, the trade restrictions of the United States against Cuba hinder Missouri's
40 export of agricultural and food products; and

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42 **WHEREAS**, full liberalization of trade between the United States and Cuba would
43 enable United States agricultural exports to compete on a more level playing field by allowing
44 the use of credit facilities, export and technical assistance, and market development programs:

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46 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
47 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
48 concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to consider the removal of trade
49 restrictions relating to Cuba and work to restore trade relations between the United States and
50 Cuba; and

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52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
53 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
54 President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States,
55 the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and to all members of the Missouri
56 Congressional delegation.

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