

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

HCR 1006

4
5 By: Representatives Hillman, D. Douglas
6 By: Senators E. Williams, Caldwell, Maloch

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8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, AND ARKANSAS
10 CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO WORK TO RESTORE TRADE
11 RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, AND
16 ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO WORK
17 TO RESTORE TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
18 UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

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21 WHEREAS, the relationship between the United States and Cuba has been
22 marked by tension, hostility, confrontation, and a fifty-plus year U.S. trade
23 embargo that remains the longest-standing embargo in modern history; and

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25 WHEREAS, Cuba imports more than one billion dollars worth of food every
26 year, including approximately 1.25 million tons of wheat, 500,000 tons of
27 rice, 50,000 tons of poultry, and 75,000 tons of dairy products; and

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29 WHEREAS, Cuba's imports are expected to grow significantly as Cuba
30 slowly recovers from the severe economic recession it has endured following
31 the withdrawal of subsidies from the former Soviet Union; and

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33 WHEREAS, agriculture is the largest industry in Arkansas and a leading
34 employer of Arkansans; and

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36 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas leads the United States in rice and



1 poultry production and ranks among the top ten states in production of many
2 other agriculture commodities; and

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4 WHEREAS, Arkansas ranks near the top ten among all states in the
5 overall value of its agricultural exports at approximately three billion
6 dollars annually; and

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8 WHEREAS, Arkansas is positioned to benefit from the market
9 opportunities that free trade with Cuba would provide due to our agricultural
10 abundance, transportation infrastructure, proximity to Cuba, and the consumer
11 needs of the people of Cuba; and

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

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17 WHEREAS, the United States' trade, financial, and travel restrictions
18 against Cuba hinder Arkansas's export of agricultural and food products and
19 the right of Arkansans to travel freely,

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21 NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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25 THAT the President and the Congress of the United States consider the
26 removal of trade, financial, and travel restrictions relating to Cuba and
27 work to restore trade relations between the United States and Cuba.

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
30 provide copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to
31 the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, to the
32 President of the Senate of the United States, and to all members of the
33 Arkansas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be
34 officially entered into the Congressional Record.

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