

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIGUEZ

ENVIRONMENT: Memorialize Congress to enact a trade policy that supports United States businesses and workers while penalizing global polluters

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to enact a  
3 trade policy that supports United States businesses and workers while penalizing  
4 global polluters.

5 WHEREAS, Chinese government owned industry is an arm of the communist party  
6 and strives to increase its influence over the global economy by pursuing predatory, unfair  
7 trade practices designed to steal intellectual property and destroy competition from the  
8 United States; and

9 WHEREAS, China's dominance of key components of the global supply chain,  
10 including those related to critical minerals, represents a threat to United States economic  
11 security and economic and social development; and

12 WHEREAS, China, by far the world's largest polluter, accounts for approximately  
13 thirty percent of global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and subsidizes its exports by not  
14 imposing or enforcing reasonable environmental and labor standards; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States has eliminated more carbon emissions than any other  
16 country in the last fifteen years, and its economy is forty-four percent more carbon efficient  
17 than the world average; and

18 WHEREAS, United States' manufacturers are more efficient in nearly every industry  
19 from steel to solar panels to automobiles and yet are forced to compete with companies in  
20 China and elsewhere that face few limits on how much they pollute; and

1           WHEREAS, goods produced in China, on average, generate three times the CO2  
2 emissions of equivalent goods made in the United States, and goods produced in Russia emit  
3 four times the emissions; and

4           WHEREAS, minerals mined in China are more than twice as carbon intensive as  
5 those mined in the United States, the average carbon intensity of Russian oil is at least thirty-  
6 three percent higher than United States oil, and Russian natural gas is sixty percent more  
7 greenhouse gas intensive than United States natural gas; and

8           WHEREAS, many rural Americans are being left behind economically, suffering  
9 from severe poverty, poor health care, and few economic opportunities, making them  
10 increasingly vulnerable to crime and the opioid crisis; and

11           WHEREAS, the average per capita income for rural Americans is only forty-six  
12 thousand dollars, compared to roughly sixty thousand dollars for all Americans, and the  
13 poverty rate in rural America is fourteen point four percent, compared with eleven point nine  
14 percent nationwide; and

15           WHEREAS, United States rural communities have lower wages, property taxes, and  
16 land prices, which should give them a competitive advantage in attracting investments in  
17 manufacturing that provide revenue streams that help fund local schools and infrastructure;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, manufacturing jobs play a more important role in the rural economy  
20 than in urban areas, accounting for a greater share of jobs and earnings; and

21           WHEREAS, United States' trade policy, which has given foreign polluters an unfair  
22 advantage over the past two decades, has encouraged economic restructuring across rural  
23 America that has resulted in manufacturing employment falling by close to thirty percent;  
24 and

25           WHEREAS, China has been the major beneficiary of this poorly designed federal  
26 trade policy, with the United States losing roughly five million jobs in the last twenty years,  
27 and half of those losses are the result of the United States trade deficit with China; and

28           WHEREAS, rewarding United States firms for their environmental performance  
29 would bolster domestic manufacturing and generate good paying jobs, particularly in rural

1 areas, and reduce dependence on imports from high emitting producers like Russia and  
2 China.

3           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
4 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such  
5 actions as are necessary to enact a trade policy that holds highpolluting countries like China  
6 and Russia accountable for their pollution and promotes American economic development  
7 and the rebuilding of United States supply chains, particularly in rural communities, by  
8 rewarding American businesses and workers for their superior environmental performance  
9 while penalizing global polluters.

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
11 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the  
12 United States and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 39 Original

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Miguez

Memorializes the U.S. Congress to enact a trade policy that supports U.S. businesses and workers while penalizing global polluters.