

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Conger, Doherty, Esquivel, Hoyle, Johnson, Matthews, Kennemer, Schaufler
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/2

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Urges Congress to ease the visa application process for Chinese visitors to the United States.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current process of obtaining a travel visa
- Level of trade and tourism dollars lost due other countries having less burdensome travel visa policies than the United States

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** China is Oregon's largest trading partner. In 2009, the state's exports to China were approximately \$3 billion and are estimated to nearly double to \$6 billion by the end of 2010. Current federal regulations for Chinese citizens to obtain a nonimmigration visa require a nonrefundable fee of at least \$140, plus a waiting period of several weeks for a one or two minute appointment with a United States embassy visa officer in addition to the applicant's effort and travel costs to the embassy. In comparison, a Chinese citizen who wishes to obtain a Japanese travel visa pays a fee of \$32 and submits the required information in writing and without a personal appearance.

House Joint Memorial 1 respectfully urges Congress to pass legislation that eases the visa application process for Chinese visitors to the United States.