

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	6 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Burdick, Edwards, Girod, Starr, Beyer
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Richard Berger, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/11

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Important business relationship between Oregon and China
- Need to bring businesspeople and tourists from China to Oregon
- Ease of obtaining visa to travel to China

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 were 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.