

House Joint Memorial 23

Sponsored by Representative WITT; Representative BARNHART (at the request of Mike Sullivan, Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers, and Bill Kluting, Carpenters Industrial Council)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges President of United States to direct United States Trade Representative not to enter into South Korean, Colombian and Panamanian free trade agreements. Urges Congress of United States to oppose South Korean, Colombian and Panamanian free trade agreements.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the President of the United States, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
3 States of America, in Congress assembled, and the Office of the United States Trade Represen-
4 tative:

5 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-
6 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

7 Whereas it is possible to craft a trade policy that encourages balanced trade, job creation and
8 sustainable development both at home and abroad without undermining the traditional American
9 values associated with constitutional federalism; and

10 Whereas on February 9, 2011, the United States Trade Representative testified before the House
11 Committee on Ways and Means of the United States Congress about plans to move forward with the
12 proposed South Korean, Colombian and Panamanian free trade agreements this year; and

13 Whereas these free trade agreements are largely modeled after the North American Free Trade
14 Agreement, which took effect in 1994 and greatly increased the trade deficit of the United States;
15 and

16 Whereas more than 51,000 Oregon jobs have been certified by the United States Department of
17 Labor to have been lost to direct movement of service sector work offshore or to displacement of
18 workers because of the influx of imports; and

19 Whereas tens of thousands of additional jobs have likely been lost, but have not been accounted
20 for, because the United States Department of Labor did not include offshore movement of service
21 sector work in its data sets until 2009; and

22 Whereas the loss of tens of thousands of Oregon jobs not only has an obvious impact on the
23 state's unacceptably high unemployment level, but significantly reduces state and local tax revenues;
24 and

25 Whereas the nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute has found that the South Korean and
26 Colombian free trade agreements will further increase the trade deficit of the United States and cost
27 the nation 214,000 additional jobs; and

28 Whereas the South Korean, Colombian and Panamanian free trade agreements would grant for-
29 eign businesses that operate in Oregon new rights and privileges that exceed the rights and privi-
30 leges of Oregon's domestic businesses, including the ability to challenge Oregon laws as nontariff

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 barriers to trade and, thereby, subject those laws to binding arbitration in international dispute re-
2 solution bodies that are not bound by the United States judicial system; and

3 Whereas similar provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement have already gener-
4 ated cases against state and local land use decisions, state environmental policies, state public
5 health policies, state court rulings and state and local contracts; and

6 Whereas those cases are likely not to be heard by a state or federal court; and

7 Whereas the South Korean, Colombian and Panamanian free trade agreements make it more
8 difficult for this state's Legislative Assembly to be fiscally responsible on behalf of the citizens of
9 this state; now, therefore,

10 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

11 (1)(a) The President of the United States is respectfully urged to direct the United States Trade
12 Representative, Ambassador Ron Kirk, not to enter into the South Korean, Colombian and
13 Panamanian free trade agreements; and

14 (b) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to oppose the South Korean,
15 Colombian and Panamanian free trade agreements.

16 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate
17 Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the United States Trade Rep-
18 resentative and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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