

Joint Resolution Referred to Committee

J.R.H. 57

Reps. Tracy of Burlington, Hingtgen of Burlington, Atkins of Winooski, Donovan of Burlington, Gervais of Enosburg, Head of South Burlington, Kiss of Burlington, Larson of Burlington, Lippert of Hinesburg, Maier of Middlebury, McCullough of Williston, Nuovo of Middlebury, Partridge of Windham and Seibert of Norwich offered a joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution relating to relating to Vermont's participation in multinational trade agreements;

Whereas, Vermonters are concerned about jobs and the economy, and

Whereas, Vermont's workers have the skills to compete in today's and tomorrow's economy, and

Whereas, Vermonters struggle with the rising costs of college, health care, growing debt, and shrinking savings, and

Whereas, many Vermonters are involuntarily working part time as they would rather be working full time, and

Whereas, we should spend our tax dollars directly and effectively to benefit and support Vermont companies, and

Whereas, the state of Vermont benefits from using Vermont tax dollars to develop Vermont businesses and hire Vermont workers, and

Whereas, Vermont taxpayers expect that their government will set an example for what our priorities are in developing the state's economy, and

Whereas, trade with other states and countries is only good for Vermont if Vermont businesses are healthy enough to produce goods for trade, and Vermont taxpayers have jobs which enable them to buy goods made around the world, and

Whereas, the General Assembly has an important role to play in reviewing decisions made on Vermont taxpayers' behalf and which affect the state's role in the world economy and in international trade agreements, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly strongly urges the governor to:

1) Remove Vermont from the list of sub-central government entities which have assented to the proposed Central American Free Trade Agreement, the US-Australia World Trade Agreement, and the World Trade Organization's Government Procurement Agreement which took effect in 1996 which each significantly hampers the state's ability to set procurement policies which benefit Vermonters and use our tax dollars for the most strategic benefit,

2) Work with the General Assembly to develop a process which allows for appropriate public comment and legislative oversight in future consideration of Vermont's participation in all trade agreements, and

3) Consider implementation of policies which encourage the use of Vermont workers and businesses in all future state procurement contracts, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the governor.