



State of Wisconsin
2005 - 2006 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3072/2
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2005 SENATE RESOLUTION 8

June 9, 2005 – Introduced by Senators REYNOLDS, LASSA and HANSEN. Referred to Committee on State and Federal Relations.

1 **Relating to:** urging Congress to not enter into the Central America Free Trade
2 Agreement until the United States has a greater understanding of the impacts
3 of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade
4 Organization.

5 Whereas, the United States of America has always been the world leader in
6 promoting free trade, which is the hallmark of our capitalistic society; and

7 Whereas, free trade only thrives when there is a level playing field of
8 government regulation between trading partners; and

9 Whereas, the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was
10 supposed to bring additional prosperity to the United States and level the playing
11 field with Canada and Mexico, perpetuating free trade between our nations; and

12 Whereas, notwithstanding the good intentions of NAFTA, our nation has
13 suffered the loss of almost 900,000 jobs due to NAFTA, many of them in the
14 manufacturing sector; and

1 Whereas, the United States has gone from a trade surplus with Mexico prior
2 to NAFTA to a substantial trade deficit; and

3 Whereas, the United States is a current member of the World Trade
4 Organization (WTO), which has been called “The United Nations of World Trade”;
5 and

6 Whereas, the United States consistently bows to the wishes of the WTO,
7 allowing an international governing body to dictate what our laws should be; and

8 Whereas, both the WTO and NAFTA, through the use of trade tribunals, now
9 claim sovereign authority to overrule decisions of American courts and make awards
10 to foreign businesses for violations of trade agreements; and

11 Whereas, both the WTO and NAFTA shift power away from state and local
12 governments towards international trade tribunals operating under international
13 law, instead of domestic statutory or constitutional law; and

14 Whereas, the United States is considering entering into the Central America
15 Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) in 2005; and

16 Whereas, based upon the experience that the United States has had with
17 NAFTA and the WTO, United States membership in the planned CAFTA would
18 increase the exodus of manufacturing from Wisconsin and the United States to other
19 countries; now, therefore, be it

20 ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the senate of the state of Wisconsin respectfully
21 but firmly urges all members of the United States Congress to vote “no” on any
22 agreement for the United States to enter into the CAFTA at this time; and, be it
23 further

1 **Resolved, That** the senate of the state of Wisconsin urges the United States
2 Congress to not enter into the CAFTA until the United States has a greater
3 understanding of the impacts of NAFTA and the WTO; and, be it further

4 **Resolved, That** the senate chief clerk transmit a copy of this resolution to the
5 majority leader of the United States senate, the speaker of the house of
6 representatives of the United States, and the members of Wisconsin's congressional
7 delegation.

8

(END)