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**HOUSE RESOLUTION DISCOURAGING  
PARTICIPATION IN FREE TRADE AREAS  
OF THE AMERICAS**

2005 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Glenn A. Donnelson**

J. Stuart Adams	Carl W. Duckworth	Brad King
Sheryl L. Allen	James A. Dunnigan	John G. Mathis
Ron Bigelow	Craig A. Frank	Michael T. Morley
Duane E. Bourdeaux	Brent H. Goodfellow	Carol Spackman Moss
DeMar Bud Bowman	James R. Gowans	Curtis Oda
Craig W. Buttars	Neil A. Hansen	Patrick Painter
Stephen D. Clark	Neal B. Hendrickson	LaWanna Lou Shurtliff
Tim M. Cosgrove	Gregory H. Hughes	Peggy Wallace
David N. Cox	Fred R. Hunsaker	Mark A. Wheatley
Bradley M. Daw	Eric K. Hutchings	Larry B. Wiley
Brad L. Dee		



**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution of the House of Representatives urges the United States Congress to oppose entering into a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ urges the United States Congress to oppose any agreement for the United States to enter into a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); and
- ▶ urges that the United States not enter into the FTAA until the nation has had more experience with and a greater understanding of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization.

**Special Clauses:**



31 None

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33 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:*

34 WHEREAS, the United States of America has always been the world leader in pushing  
35 for free trade, which is a hallmark of our capitalistic society;

36 WHEREAS, free trade only thrives where there is a level playing field of government  
37 regulations between trading partners;

38 WHEREAS, the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was supposed  
39 to bring additional prosperity to the United States and level the playing field with Canada and  
40 Mexico, thus perpetuating free trade between our nations;

41 WHEREAS, notwithstanding the good intentions of NAFTA, our nation has suffered  
42 the loss of almost 900,000 jobs due to NAFTA, many of them coming in the manufacturing  
43 sector;

44 WHEREAS, manufacturing jobs in the United States have plunged from 19.3 million in  
45 1980 to only about 14.6 million today, in large part because of these types of trade issues;

46 WHEREAS, the United States has gone from a trade surplus with Mexico prior to  
47 NAFTA to a substantial trade deficit;

48 WHEREAS, the United States is a current member of the World Trade Organization  
49 (WTO), which has been called "The United Nations of World Trade";

50 WHEREAS, the United States consistently bows to the wishes of the WTO, only  
51 proving the words of Texas Congressman Ron Paul to be prophetic: "The most important  
52 reason why we should get out [of the WTO] is to maintain our nation's sovereignty. We should  
53 never deliver to any international governing body the authority to dictate what our laws should  
54 be. And this is precisely the kind of power that has been given to the WTO.";

55 WHEREAS, both the WTO and NAFTA, through the use of trade tribunals, now claim  
56 the sovereign authority to overrule decisions of American courts and make awards to foreign  
57 businesses for violations of trade agreements;

58 WHEREAS, Abner Mikva, a former chief judge on the federal appellate bench and a  
59 former congressman, has stated: "If Congress had known there was anything like this in  
60 NAFTA, they never would have voted for it.";

61 WHEREAS, the United States is considering entering into a new 34-member Free

62 Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in 2005; and

63 WHEREAS, based upon the experience that the United States has had with NAFTA  
64 and the WTO, United States membership in the planned FTAA would increase manufacturing  
65 flight in the state of Utah and throughout the United States:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
67 state of Utah respectfully but firmly urges all members of the United States Congress to vote no  
68 on any agreement for the United States to enter into a Free Trade Area of the Americas  
69 (FTAA).

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the state of Utah  
71 urges the United States Congress to not enter into the FTAA until the United States has had  
72 more experience with and a greater understanding of the impacts of NAFTA and the World  
73 Trade Organization (WTO).

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Majority  
75 Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
76 the members of Utah's congressional delegation, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and  
77 the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

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**Legislative Review Note**

**as of 2-1-05 5:05 PM**

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**Fiscal Note**  
**Bill Number HR0009**

**House Resolution Discouraging Participation in Free Trade Areas of the Americas**

*08-Feb-05*  
*7:23 PM*

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**State Impact**

Mailing provisions of this resolution can be handled within existing budgets.

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**Individual and Business Impact**

No fiscal impact.

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**Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst**