

1                                   **SENATE RESOLUTION DISCOURAGING**  
2                                   **PARTICIPATION IN FREE TRADE AREA OF**  
3                                   **THE AMERICAS**

4                                   2005 GENERAL SESSION

5                                   STATE OF UTAH

6                                   **Sponsor: David L. Thomas**

7 Ron Allen	Beverly Ann Evans	John W. Hickman
8 D. Chris Buttars	Fred J. Fife	Paula F. Julander
9 Allen M. Christensen	Karen Hale	Peter C. Knudson
10 Gene Davis	Thomas V. Hatch	Mark B. Madsen
11 Mike Dmitrich	Parley G. Hellewell	Ed Mayne
12 Dan R. Eastman		

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14 **LONG TITLE**

15 **General Description:**

16                   This resolution of the Senate urges the United States Congress to oppose entering into a  
17 Free Trade Area of the Americas.

18 **Highlighted Provisions:**

19                   This resolution:

20                   ▶ urges the United States Congress to oppose any agreement for the United States to  
21 enter into a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); and

22                   ▶ urges that the United States not enter into the FTAA until the nation has had more  
23 experience and greater understanding of the North American Free Trade Agreement  
24 and the World Trade Organization.

25 **Special Clauses:**

26                   None

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28 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the state of Utah:*



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

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

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

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

39 WHEREAS, manufacturing jobs in the United States have plunged from 19.3 million in  
40 1980 to only about 14.6 million today, in large part because of these types of trade issues;

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

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

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

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

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

56 WHEREAS, the United States is considering entering into a new 34-member Free  
57 Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in 2005; and

58 WHEREAS, based upon the experience that the United States has had with NAFTA  
59 and the WTO, United States membership in the planned FTAA would increase manufacturing

60 flight in the state of Utah and throughout the United States:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the state of Utah  
62 respectfully but firmly urges all members of the United States Congress to vote no on any  
63 agreement for the United States to enter into a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) ~~§~~→ at this  
63a time ←~~§~~ .

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the state of Utah urges the United  
65 States Congress to not enter into the FTAA until the United States has had more experience  
66 and greater understanding of the impacts of NAFTA and the World Trade Organization  
67 (WTO).

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

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 1-17-05 10:53 AM**

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 SR0001**

**Senate Resolution Discouraging Participation in Free Trade Area Of The  
America's**

*21-Jan-05*  
*1:55 PM*

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**State Impact**

Mailing requirements 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**