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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 2510

03/23/2017 Authored by Hornstein; Lee; Dehn, R.; Bly; Uglem and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Policy

1.1 A resolution
1.2 urging the United States Congress to permanently repeal trade, financial, and travel
1.3 restrictions to Cuba.
1.4 WHEREAS, the relationship between the United States and Cuba has been marked by tension
1.5 and confrontation instead of cooperation and diplomacy; and
1.6 WHEREAS, for more than five decades, the United States has maintained, through the most
1.7 comprehensive set of economic sanctions levied against any nation, a strict embargo on the Republic
1.8 of Cuba; through various federal acts, regulations, and presidential orders, the embargo places
1.9 significant restrictions and prohibitions on American-Cuban relationships, notably on trade, travel,
1.10 and financial transactions; and
1.11 WHEREAS, U.S. laws and regulations make American exports to Cuba difficult and
1.12 burdensome, if not outright prohibited; under provisions from the Trade Sanctions Reform and
1.13 Export Enhancement Act of 2000 and export regulations from the U.S. Department of Commerce,
1.14 U.S. food and agricultural entities are legally permitted to export to the island nation, but doing so
1.15 requires prior permission from the U.S. Department of Commerce and compliance with numerous
1.16 federal export regulations; and
1.17 WHEREAS, U.S. financial restrictions limit the ability of American and Minnesota entities
1.18 to competitively serve the market, allowing international competitors to capitalize off potential
1.19 U.S. market share, with the U.S. now ranking third in agricultural exports to Cuba; and
1.20 WHEREAS, Cuba imports up to 80 percent of its food or \$2 billion annually in agricultural
1.21 products, making the Republic of Cuba a logical target for expanded U.S. food and agricultural
1.22 exports; the U.S. has the potential to enhance Cuban citizens' access to affordable food while driving
1.23 growth in both countries and allowing U.S. farmers, ranchers, and food companies to efficiently
1.24 contribute to the food security needs of the Cuban citizenry; and

2.1 WHEREAS, Minnesota is a top agriculture exporter, with soybeans and corn accounting for
2.2 nearly 40 percent of the state's total export value, both of which among Cuba's major agricultural
2.3 imports; under an ideal trade scenario, Minnesota farmers could enjoy at least \$45 million in new
2.4 exports annually; the state's total economic benefit would be nearly \$92 million, including 900 new
2.5 jobs; and

2.6 WHEREAS, ending the American embargo against Cuba will boost the Cuban economy and
2.7 lead to an improved quality of life for the Cuban people; through congressional action, breaking
2.8 down the barriers between Americans and Cubans will expand diplomatic relations, travel,
2.9 partnerships, and trade, allowing all citizens the opportunity to discover and reconnect on mutual
2.10 interests, benefiting Cubans and Americans alike; NOW, THEREFORE,

2.11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it supports national
2.12 efforts to remove all trade, financial, and travel restrictions on Cuba and urges the President and
2.13 the Congress of the United States to take all necessary steps to see that this end is accomplished.

2.14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed
2.15 to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the
2.16 President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United
2.17 States House of Representatives, the chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
2.18 Forestry, the chair of the House Committee on Agriculture, and Minnesota's Senators and
2.19 Representatives in Congress.