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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION 11

2 WHEREAS, For almost 40 years, the United States Congress
3 has pursued expansion of trade opportunities with other
4 countries through free trade agreements that eliminate
5 barriers, create transparency, and set rules to ensure fair
6 trading terms for the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, As of January 1, 2014, the United States has 14
8 free trade agreements with 20 partner countries, including:
9 Australia, Bahrain, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominican
10 Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Israel,
11 Jordan, Korea, Morocco, Canada, Mexico, Oman, Panama, Peru, and
12 Singapore; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2012, the United States' current free trade
14 agreements supported nearly 46% of the country's merchandise
15 exports, totaling approximately \$718 billion; and

16 WHEREAS, In July of 2013, the United States began
17 negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment
18 Partnership (T-TIP) free trade agreement with the European
19 Union; and

20 WHEREAS, The European Union was the United States' largest
21 export market in 2012 and has 28 member countries, including

1 Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic,
2 Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary,
3 Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta,
4 Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia,
5 Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2011, the United States and the European Union
7 maintained approximately \$3.7 trillion in investment in each
8 other's economies; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States and the European Union together
10 generate approximately half of the world's gross domestic
11 product output; and

12 WHEREAS, The goals of the T-TIP agreement include a plan to
13 expand the European markets for trade with the United States,
14 thereby strengthening the world's largest investment
15 relationship; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2013, the United States' current free trade
17 agreements benefited the State of Illinois by accounting for
18 nearly 54% of goods exported from the State, totaling
19 approximately \$35.7 billion; and

20 WHEREAS, Illinois' largest merchandise export categories
21 are machinery, transportation equipment, chemicals, computer

1 and electronic products, and petroleum and coal products; and

2 WHEREAS, Illinois' top industrial goods exported to the
3 European Union include machinery products with an approximate
4 tariff rate of 9.7%, chemicals with an approximate tariff rate
5 of 6.5%, and automotive products with an approximate tariff
6 rate of 22%; and

7 WHEREAS, The elimination of tariffs through T-TIP will
8 allow Illinois to gain greater market access for all goods
9 exported to the European Union and its trade partners by
10 enhancing the State's competitiveness in the global
11 marketplace; and

12 WHEREAS, Any "Fast Track" or Trade Promotion Authority
13 legislation filed before Congress must have greater openness,
14 robust opportunities for citizen and Congressional
15 participation in trade negotiations, and clear accountability
16 mechanisms to ensure the executive branch brings back trade
17 deals that will have a positive impact on the United States
18 trade balance by creating good, family-wage jobs, promoting
19 transparency in maintaining health, safety, and environmental
20 protections, addressing localized discriminatory practices,
21 and ensuring that state and local governments can continue to
22 legislate and regulate in the public interest; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 urge Congress to use its authority under Article I, Section 8
4 of the United States Constitution, to "regulate Commerce with
5 foreign Nations" if any "Fast Track" or "Trade Promotion
6 Authority" legislation fails to meet the aforementioned
7 requirements; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Trade
9 Representative to negotiate the Transatlantic Trade and
10 Investment Partnership (T-TIP) in a fair and transparent way
11 that will have a positive impact on the United States trade
12 balance; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 presented to the President of the United States, the United
15 States Trade Representative, the United States Senate Majority
16 Leader, and the United States Senate Minority Leader.