

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 1009

By: DeWitt

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution expressing legislative support of sales of agricultural goods to Cuba; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry facilitated Oklahoma=s first direct sale of agricultural goods, Oklahoma wheat, to Cuba; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has expressed an interest in purchasing additional agriculture products from Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, agricultural exports are very important to Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent (50%) of Oklahoma wheat production is exported nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is a surplus state in soybean production; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma exports a high percentage of its beef, pork, poultry and dairy production; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma=s forestry industry is also dependent on exporting much of its production out of state; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture forecasts for the year 2005 show the United States import-to-export balance will be the worst in over fifty (50) years with imports exceeding exports at \$56 billion; and

WHEREAS, the import to export imbalance will have its greatest impact on producers of agriculture and forestry goods and will greatly hinder Oklahoma=s rural development efforts; and

WHEREAS, Cuba is a growing cash market and Oklahoma has many freight and other advantages over other exporters in the world; and

WHEREAS, Cuba will have a better means to pay cash for these products if travel restrictions are softened.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Legislature of Oklahoma opposes strong sanctions against Cuba on any agriculture, food and medical purchases.

THAT this Resolution supports the agriculture and forestry industry and efforts to create more new markets for our food industry to help the economy of Oklahoma grow.

THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, President George W. Bush, United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, and the United States Trade Ambassador Robert B. Zoelick.

50-1-7100

SBH

03/22/05