

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 36

By: Wyrick, Adelson, Aldridge,
Anderson, Ballenger,
Barrington, Bass, Bingman,
Branan, Brogdon, Brown,
Burrage, Coates, Coffee,
Corn, Crain, Crutchfield,
Easley, Eason McIntyre,
Ellis, Ford, Garrison,
Gumm, Halligan, Ivester,
Johnson (Constance),
Johnson (Mike), Jolley,
Justice, Lamb, Laster,
Leftwich, Lerblance,
Marlatt, Mazzei, Myers,
Newberry, Nichols, Paddack,
Reynolds, Rice, Schulz,
Sparks, Stanislawski,
Sweeden, Sykes, and Wilson

A Resolution reaffirming support of agricultural sales to Cuba; requesting the easing of trade restrictions; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the United States embargo against Cuba was imposed on the Castro government on February 7, 1962, after the Castro government expropriated the property of United States citizens and corporations. In 1992 the Cuban Democracy Act codified the embargo into federal law. In 1996 the Helms-Burton Act further restricted U.S. citizens from doing business in or with Cuba. Finally in 1999 the Clinton Administration modified the trade embargo; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 Oklahoma wheat was sold to Cuba as a humanitarian effort to help alleviate the devastation caused by severe hurricane damage. At that time it was estimated that Cuba represented a potential \$1.24 billion agricultural market; and

WHEREAS, numerous trade delegations have visited Cuba during the past several years with the aim of expanding the agricultural market in Cuba. Last year an Oklahoma trade delegation to Cuba was led by the Secretary of Agriculture of Oklahoma and included members of the Oklahoma State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the Oklahoma State Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution 1009, expressing legislative support for sales of agricultural goods to Cuba.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate reaffirms its support for sales of agricultural and forestry products to Cuba as reflected in House Concurrent Resolution 1009, passed by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 2005.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate requests the federal government ease trade restrictions on Cuba in order to facilitate the export of Oklahoma agricultural and forestry products.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Trade Ambassador, and members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the Senate the 7th day of May, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate