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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, For almost 40 years, the United States Congress has enacted Trade Promotion Authority laws to guide the pursuit of free trade agreements that support job growth for the United States, eliminate barriers to United States exports, create a transparent trade environment, and set rules to ensure fair trading terms for United States companies, farmers, and workers; and

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

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WHEREAS, In 2012, the United States' current free trade agreements supported nearly 46% of the country's merchandise exports totaling approximately \$718 billion, as well as supporting approximately 3.2 million jobs nationally in 2013; and

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WHEREAS, In 2013, the United States' current free trade agreements benefited the State of Illinois by accounting for nearly 54% of goods exported from the State, totaling

1 approximately \$35.7 billion; goods exported from Illinois
2 supported approximately 339,000 United States' jobs; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States began negotiations on a
4 Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) free
5 trade agreement with the European Union in July of 2013; and

6 WHEREAS, The European Union was the United States' largest
7 export market in 2012 and has 28 member countries including:
8 Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic,
9 Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary,
10 Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta,
11 Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia,
12 Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom; and

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

16 WHEREAS, The United States and the European Union together
17 generate approximately half of the world's gross domestic
18 product output; and

19 WHEREAS, The goals of the T-TIP agreement include a plan
20 to: expand the European Union markets for trade with the United
21 States, thereby strengthening the world's largest investment

1 relationship; eliminate all tariffs; promote transparency and
2 cooperation in maintaining global concerns, such as health,
3 safety, and environmental protections; develop rules to
4 address localized discriminatory practices that create
5 non-tariff barriers to trade; and promote the global
6 competitiveness of small and medium sized business; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States currently endures tariff and
8 non-tariff barriers on trade with the European Union; however,
9 eliminating tariffs through T-TIP will put the United States'
10 industrial, technological, scientific, chemical, plastic,
11 textile, apparel, and agricultural products on a level trading
12 field with the European Union's other free trade agreement
13 partners; and

14 WHEREAS, Illinois' largest merchandise export categories
15 are machinery, transportation equipment, chemicals, computer
16 and electronic products, and petroleum and coal products; and

17 WHEREAS, Illinois' top industrial goods exported to the
18 European Union include machinery products with an approximate
19 tariff rate of 9.7%, chemicals with an approximate tariff rate
20 of 6.5%, and automotive products with an approximate tariff
21 rate of 22%; and

22 WHEREAS, The elimination of tariffs through T-TIP will

1 allow Illinois to gain greater market access for all goods
2 exported to the European Union and its trade partners by
3 enhancing the State's competitiveness in the global
4 marketplace; and

5 WHEREAS, The T-TIP agreement will benefit Illinois by
6 creating jobs, providing higher levels of protections for
7 workers by enforcing internationally recognized labor rights,
8 and improving the sustainability of the farming industry as
9 well as small and mid-sized companies, while strengthening
10 Illinois' economy overall; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
13 ask Congress to pass Trade Promotion Authority and urge the
14 United States Trade Representative to conclude the
15 negotiations and recommend ratification of the Transatlantic
16 Trade and Investment Partnership, also known as T-TIP, to the
17 President of the United States and the United States Senate
18 with all deliberate speed; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
20 presented to the President of the United States, the United
21 States Trade Representative, the United States Senate Majority
22 Leader, and the United States Senate Minority Leader.