

Georgia State Senate



A RESOLUTION

Urging the State of Georgia to study and put forward a strategic business framework for increasing trade with China by creating a public private forum to analyze our current situation, establish the economic value of a strategy and recommend the best possible course of action for the future; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, United States goods exported to China equaled \$22.05 billion in 2002 and goods imported to the United States from China in 2002 totaled \$125.17 billion in the same year; and

WHEREAS, China's most favored nation status and recent financial reforms have established the foundation for a pro-business environment in the country that opens up valuable opportunities for trade with Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Georgia is an international community and our future economic success depends on the state providing the infrastructure for Georgia businesses to effectively compete for global trade, foreign investment, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's national ranking per capita in total value of exports to China was 26th in the year 2000 and increased trade with China would have a direct and compelling economic benefit to every key community and business sector in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, students from China make up the second largest number of international students in the University System of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, two major cities in Georgia, Savannah and Atlanta, rank first and third respectively, as the most logistics friendly cities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's largest employers and global companies provide our state a competitive advantage in seeking more efficient trade with China: Delta Airlines transports more passengers worldwide than any other airline and includes China Southern as a worldwide partner; Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement store, has two offices in China and China is the largest source of imported products for the company; UPS provides global distribution, logistics, and information services; BellSouth is a leading global communications company that provides all telecommunications services to the Shanghai Centre, one of China's largest multiuse real estate projects; The Coca-Cola Company, the undisputed soft drink brand leader in the world, has an extensive business and investment history with China that dates back to 1927 and currently has 24 bottling companies and 28 bottling plants in China; CNN is the leading news and communications company that broadcasts around the world from our capital city. These companies, their employees, and the citizens of Georgia would benefit from the increased sale of goods and services to China; and

WHEREAS, increased trade with China will have significant economic impact on all regions of the state and in all key business sectors including: poultry, agriculture, livestock, construction, non-apparel textiles, apparel manufacturing, paper products, nonmetallic mineral manufacturing, wood products, hospitality and tourism, banking, communications, legal services, and other service industries; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's universities have become increasingly global and will provide Georgia with an important advantage in the effort to create better trade relations with China, and as the enrollment of international students increases, bonds can be formed through Chinese students that would give Georgia companies the inside track for trade; and

WHEREAS, three of the top five states ranked for the total value of exports to China have research institutes or centers that engage in studying trade with China.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body asserts that it is in the best interest of Georgia to more fully understand the breadth and scope of China's cultural, political, and economic landscape.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this understanding must be the result of a focused strategic business and economic analysis of Georgia's current exports to and imports from China, the scope and size of the market opportunity for Georgia companies for exports to and imports from China, and, finally, the best possible public and private strategy to expand Georgia's exports to and imports from China.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic business and economic analysis should be a partnership between public and private sectors that is led by senior representatives of Georgia's leading corporations with the full cooperation of Georgia's academic institutions and appropriate government agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this public and private partnership should convene a series of no more than three forums to pursue the business and economic analysis and provide written recommendations to the Governor and the State Senate no later than December 1, 2003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a coordinating committee shall be appointed to plan the time lines, locations, and process for the strategic business and economic analysis; one member appointed by the Governor, two members by the Lt. Governor, two members by the President Pro Tempore; one member from the Commissioner of Industry and Trade; and one member from the Department of Agriculture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this initiative will be called "The Georgia China Future."

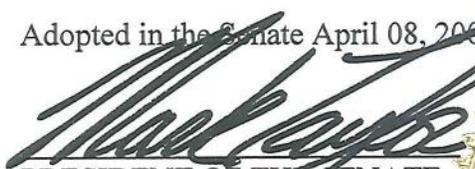
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the members of The Georgia China Future to communicate its intent to create a long-term strategic framework for trade, business development, and cultural and academic exchanges between Georgia and China to representatives of the Chinese government, to the United States government through the Department of Commerce and the State Department, and to all NGOs in Georgia that study and promote trade with China.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Honorable Sonny Perdue, Governor.

Senate Resolution 225

By: Senators Zamarripa of the 36th, Johnson of the 1st, Kemp of the 3rd,
Bullock of the 11th, Meyer von Bremen of the 12th and others

Adopted in the Senate April 08, 2003


PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE


PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE




SECRETARY OF THE SENATE


SENATOR, DISTRICT 36th