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1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

2 BY BOETTGER

3 A Concurrent Resolution urging the United States Congress to  
4 act to remove trade, financial, and travel restrictions  
5 relating to Cuba.

6 WHEREAS, the relationship between the United States  
7 and Cuba has long been marked by tension and  
8 confrontation, and further heightening this hostility  
9 is the 40-year-old trade embargo by the United States  
10 against the island nation, the longest standing  
11 embargo in modern history; and

12 WHEREAS, rather than depriving Cuba of access to  
13 quality United States goods, the embargo only succeeds  
14 in diverting sales to competitors in other countries;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Cuba spends nearly \$1 billion annually  
17 purchasing food from overseas, and this amount is  
18 expected to grow as Cuba recovers from the severe  
19 economic recession it has endured during the last  
20 decade following the withdrawal of subsidies from the  
21 former Soviet Union; and

22 WHEREAS, a 2001 Texas A&M University study  
23 estimates there is a potential for United States sales  
24 to Cuba of \$100 million worth of pork and beef, \$179  
25 million worth of soybeans and soybean products, \$80  
26 million worth of corn, and nearly \$47 million worth of  
27 dried milk powder; and

28 WHEREAS, the realization of the study's projected  
29 export of \$1.24 billion worth of food and agricultural  
30 products to Cuba would put that Caribbean nation among

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1 the top 10 markets for United States food and  
2 agricultural products; and

3 WHEREAS, the study also estimates that the value of  
4 probable food exports from Iowa to Cuba would be in  
5 excess of \$70.8 million, accounting for an additional  
6 \$160 million in economic output and a gain of more  
7 than 1,900 Iowa jobs; and

8 WHEREAS, in September 2002, the Iowa Export  
9 Assistance Center of the Greater Des Moines  
10 Partnership, the Iowa Corn Promotion Board, and the  
11 Iowa Farm Bureau, along with the Iowa Secretary of  
12 Agriculture, led a delegation of Iowans to the first  
13 U.S. Food & Agribusiness Exhibition in Havana, Cuba;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Iowa's participation in the Cuban  
16 exhibition led to the signing of a contract for the  
17 export of \$5 million worth of Iowa corn and soybeans,  
18 with additional potential to export Iowa pork, beef,  
19 and poultry, along with food ingredients including soy  
20 flour, powdered milk, and dried egg products; and

21 WHEREAS, Cuba is a world leader in the development  
22 of biotechnology in agriculture and pharmaceuticals,  
23 including the development of a meningitis B vaccine  
24 that has virtually eliminated the disease in Cuba, and  
25 such products could provide protection for Americans  
26 against diseases that continue to threaten large  
27 populations around the world and could provide future  
28 avenues of cooperation in the life sciences between  
29 Iowa colleges and universities and private companies;  
30 and

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1 WHEREAS, Cuba's potential oil reserves have  
2 attracted the interest of numerous other countries  
3 that have been helping Cuba develop its existing wells  
4 and search for new reserves, and Cuba's oil output has  
5 increased more than 400 percent over the last decade;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the United States trade, financial, and  
8 travel restrictions against Cuba prohibit Iowa's  
9 export of manufactured goods including those related  
10 to agricultural production, hinder Iowa's export of  
11 agricultural and food products, and hinder Iowa's  
12 ability to import critical energy products and  
13 pharmaceuticals for the treatment of illnesses  
14 experienced by Iowans; and

15 WHEREAS, current United States policy toward Cuba  
16 violates the basic human right of Iowans to travel  
17 freely; NOW THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF  
19 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Iowa General  
20 Assembly respectfully urges the Congress of the United  
21 States to act to remove all trade, financial, and  
22 travel restrictions relating to Cuba; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the  
24 Senate shall forward copies of this Resolution to the  
25 President of the United States, the President of the  
26 Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House  
27 of Representatives of the United States, and the  
28 members of Iowa's Congressional delegation.

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