

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Cheney, Stevenson, Ayres, Aguilera

A RESOLUTION urging the establishment of an interim study committee on job loss and United States trade policy.

Whereas, Manufacturing jobs, which build and sustain America's middle class, are disappearing; the United States has lost more than 2 million manufacturing jobs since April 1998;

Whereas, In June 2002, Indiana topped all other states in loss of manufacturing jobs;

Whereas, The creation of the WTO and trade agreements like GATT and NAFTA were passed with strong bipartisan support, amidst promises from the leadership of both parties that the benefits would far outweigh the negative effects;



Whereas, Studies based on the government's own figures have estimated 3 million actual and potential jobs have been lost since the signing of the NAFTA in 1994; in Indiana, an estimated 102,873 jobs were eliminated between 1994 and 2000, preceding the even more dramatic wave of job losses in 2001-2002;

Whereas, The annual trade deficit has hit a record high of over \$450 billion, growing by more than 600 percent in the past ten years;

Whereas, The United States' trade deficit with Canada and Mexico has ballooned to nine times its size before NAFTA, and since Congress granted China Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status in 2000, the United States' deficit with China has grown over 20 percent to more than \$14 billion;

Whereas, The current administration is working on a new trade deal, Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which is expected to be presented to the U.S. Congress in 2005;

Whereas, Steel frame residential housing should be encouraged as an industry in Indiana;

Whereas, Steel frame strength results in safer structures, less maintenance, and slower aging of structure;

Whereas, Incentives, such as tax credits, should be considered to encourage the development of this industry in Indiana; and

Whereas, The tremendous effects of the manufacturing crisis in Indiana are obvious on the tax base and budgets, on our local, county, and state governments, schools, and public services: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the legislative council is urged to establish an
- 2 interim study committee to study job loss and United States trade
- 3 policy, including the development of a steel frame housing industry in



1 Indiana.

2 SECTION 2. That the committee, if established, shall operate
3 under the direction of the legislative council and that the committee
4 shall issue a final report when directed to do so by the council.

