

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011

HR 1004

4  
5 By: Representatives J. Brown, Moore, T. Rogers, McCrary

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO URGE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE  
9 ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO REMOVE THE  
10 FIFTY-YEAR OLD TRADE EMBARGO AND RESTORE NORMAL TRADE  
11 AND TRAVEL WITH CUBA.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO URGE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
16 STATES AND THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL  
17 DELEGATION TO REMOVE THE FIFTY-YEAR OLD  
18 TRADE EMBARGO AND RESTORE NORMAL TRADE  
19 AND TRAVEL WITH CUBA.

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22 WHEREAS, Arkansas's rice production and processing industry is valued  
23 at \$3.22 billion annually, employs 25,835 Arkansans in the growing,  
24 harvesting, transporting, storing, processing, packaging and marketing of  
25 rice and rice products, and is a major component of the Arkansas economy; and

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27 WHEREAS, Arkansas ranks first among the six major rice-producing  
28 states, accounting for nearly 50 percent of all U.S. rice production; and

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30 WHEREAS, the U.S. rice industry exports approximately 50 percent of the  
31 domestic crop to markets around the world; and

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33 WHEREAS, the economic health of Arkansas rice farmers and the rice  
34 industry is directly linked to expanding access in foreign markets; and

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36 WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America has called for



1 the doubling of U.S. exports; and

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3 WHEREAS, the United States of America currently trades with China,  
4 Vietnam, Russia, and other countries which, at one time, were considered  
5 threats to the United States; and

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7 WHEREAS, trade with foreign countries fosters the exchange of ideas,  
8 promotes human rights, and furthers the ideals of democracy; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Cuban people prefer U.S.-grown rice and the U.S. holds a  
11 strategic transportation advantage due to its proximity to Cuba; and

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13 WHEREAS, Arkansas is the major producer of long grain rice, a class of  
14 rice preferred by the Cuban people; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Cuban government poses no threat to the national security  
17 of the United States of America, nor its citizens; and

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19 WHEREAS, Cuba was the largest export market for U.S. rice prior to the  
20 embargo and could potentially become a 400,000 to 600,000 metric ton market  
21 for Southern long-grain rice farmers,

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23 NOW THEREFORE,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
25 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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27 THAT the State of Arkansas urges the President of the United States of  
28 America and the Arkansas Congressional Delegation to remove all restrictions  
29 on direct trade and direct travel with Cuba.

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH  
32 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS THAT upon adoption of this  
33 resolution, a copy be mailed by the Chief Clerk of the House of  
34 Representatives to the President of the United States and each member of the  
35 Arkansas Congressional Delegation.

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