

Indiana State House
March 20, 2003

A HOUSE RESOLUTION on Indiana job loss and U.S. 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, Trade agreements, such as GATT, creating the WTO, 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 lost since the signing of the NAFTA in 1994; in Indiana, an estimated 102,873 jobs were eliminated between 1994-2000, previous to the even greater dramatic wave of closings 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 10 years;

Whereas, Our trade deficit with Canada and Mexico has ballooned to nine times its size before NAFTA, since Congress granted China Permanent Normal Trade (PNTR) status in 2000 the U.S. deficit with China has grown more than 20 percent, by 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, 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:**

SECTION 1. That it is incumbent upon the Indiana General Assembly to not only do everything it can to save and attract manufacturing jobs in our state, but legislators must also seriously examine the effects of U.S. trade policy on our state and determine our recommendations to our respective party leadership in Congress.

SECTION 2. That the House of Representatives will convene a study committee to investigate and hold public hearings about the effects of U.S. trade policy on Indiana jobs and farms, inviting workers, labor unions, employers, academics, farm and trade experts to testify; the panel will make recommendations to the Governor and to the U.S. Congressional delegation and the President as to the future direction on trade agreements and what must be done immediately to reverse the continual loss of middle class jobs from our state.