



HM 1863

2003

House Memorial

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2 A memorial to the President and Congress of the United
3 States, urging the President and Congress, in negotiating
4 any new international trade agreement, to retain the
5 existing tariff on orange juice imported to North America
6 in order to promote fair trade in North America and ensure
7 that North American orange juice producers will not be
8 subjected to any additional adverse economic impact
9 resulting from importation of orange juice produced
10 outside North America.

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12 WHEREAS, for more than 100 years the citrus industry has
13 been a vital part of Florida's economy, providing substantial
14 economic, tax, and environmental benefits to the state, annually
15 generating more than \$9 billion in sales, employing nearly
16 90,000 Floridians, and maintaining invaluable green space
17 throughout the state, and

18 WHEREAS, orange juice is one of the world's most important
19 agricultural commodities, with Florida and Brazil producing the
20 majority of all orange juice consumed in the world market, and
21 Florida producing 90 percent of the orange juice consumed in
22 North America, and

23 WHEREAS, the existing orange juice tariff is critical for
24 the survival of Florida's citrus industry in that the tariff
25 effectively levels the playing field for North American orange
26 juice producers and those who import orange juice produced
27 outside North America, fairly compensating for the competitive
28 advantages enjoyed by Brazil and other foreign producers that
29 are subject to fewer regulatory controls, less restrictive
30 environmental laws, and lower labor costs, and



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31 WHEREAS, any reduction in the orange juice tariff that may
 32 result from negotiated international trade agreements would not
 33 promote the expressed goals of free trade and would reduce
 34 competition, diminish consumer benefits, and impair overall
 35 industry growth, NOW, THEREFORE,

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 37 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 39 That the Florida House of Representatives urges the
 40 President and Congress of the United States, in negotiating any
 41 new international trade agreement, to retain the existing tariff
 42 on orange juice imported to North America.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 44 dispatched to the President of the United States, the President
 45 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
 46 House of Representatives, and each member of the Florida
 47 delegation to the United States Congress.

48