

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to urge the United States Secretary of
3 State to implement policies at the United States
4 Department of State that reinstate economic sanctions
5 on Nicolás Maduro and his Venezuelan dictatorship and
6 impose sanctions on companies that do business with
7 Venezuela.

8
9 WHEREAS, beginning in 2008, the United States imposed
10 sanctions on the Venezuelan regime as Hugo Chávez began
11 expropriating oil assets of companies including Exxon Mobil and,
12 in 2017, the Trump administration placed economic sanctions on
13 the Venezuelan dictatorship, targeting the state-owned oil and
14 natural gas company *Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA)*, and

15 WHEREAS, on January 28, 2019, the United States Department
16 of the Treasury, pursuant to Emergency Order 13850, designated
17 PDVSA as operating in the oil sector of the Venezuelan economy,
18 and the Secretary of the Treasury determined that the company
19 was subject to United States sanctions that included the
20 freezing of all property and interests subject to the United
21 States' jurisdiction, whose value was estimated at \$7 billion,
22 and prohibited individuals and companies in the United States
23 from doing business with PDVSA, including exporting naphtha, and

24 WHEREAS, in February 2019, Nicolás Maduro ordered PDVSA to
25 move its European office to Moscow to protect the company's

26 | overseas assets from United States sanctions, and
 27 | WHEREAS, on February 18, 2020, the Office of Foreign Assets
 28 | Control of the United States Department of the Treasury
 29 | designated Rosneft Oil Company's Swiss-incorporated company,
 30 | Rosneft Trading S.A., as operating in the oil sector of
 31 | Venezuela for brokering the sale and transport of Venezuelan
 32 | crude oil and supporting Nicolás Maduro's regime, and
 33 | WHEREAS, continuing through 2021, the United States has
 34 | sanctioned Venezuela's Central Bank, National Development Bank,
 35 | and Minerven, the state-owned gold company, as well as
 36 | individuals that assisted PDVSA in evading sanctions, and
 37 | WHEREAS, the Biden administration has eased sanctions on
 38 | companies that trade in oil produced in Venezuela or invest in
 39 | the country's oil industry in response to Venezuela's agreement
 40 | to allow free elections in 2024, and
 41 | WHEREAS, this misguided change in policy lessened the
 42 | impact of longstanding sanctions aimed at promoting freedom and
 43 | democracy in Venezuela and could increase the flow of Venezuelan
 44 | oil into the global crude market, but is not expected to help
 45 | lower the prices that have remained stubbornly high amid turmoil
 46 | in Europe and the Middle East, and
 47 | WHEREAS, on October 18, 2023, the sanctions on the export
 48 | of crude oil and refined petroleum were lifted for a period of 6
 49 | months, and Minerven is authorized to conduct transactions that,
 50 | unfortunately, will provide revenue to the Maduro regime which

51 | it can use to stay in power and spread terror and corruption
 52 | around the globe, and

53 | WHEREAS, decades of corruption and mismanagement at PDVSA
 54 | have resulted in a rusted drilling infrastructure that is
 55 | pumping less than a third of the 3 million barrels a day that
 56 | Venezuela produced during its peak production in the early
 57 | 2000s, and

58 | WHEREAS, on October 30, 2023, the Maduro-aligned Venezuelan
 59 | Supreme Court suspended the opposition's entire primary
 60 | elections process, including the election results, and ordered
 61 | organizers to hand over documents identifying millions of voters
 62 | after the opposition's primary election garnered more support
 63 | than expected, leading many in the United States Congress to
 64 | support the reinstatement of sanctions on the Venezuelan
 65 | dictatorship, NOW, THEREFORE,

66 |
 67 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

68 |
 69 | That the United States Secretary of State is urged to
 70 | implement policies at the United States Department of State that
 71 | reinstate economic sanctions on Nicolás Maduro and his
 72 | Venezuelan dictatorship and impose sanctions on companies that
 73 | do business with Venezuela.

74 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch
 75 | copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,

HM 467

2024

76 | the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
77 | United States House of Representatives, the United States
78 | Secretary of State, and each member of the Florida delegation to
79 | the United States Congress.