

Rep. Miller offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 370.

A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to reject the Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

Whereas, The administration has transmitted to the Congress a trade agreement with Colombia. This measure is being touted for its impact on security in South and Central America every bit as much as its economic effects. In both regards, however, the Colombia Free Trade Agreement falls short; and

Whereas, The proposed trade agreement comes at a difficult time for working men and women in our country. Rising unemployment, skyrocketing prices, and wage levels that have long lagged behind costs have combined with the widespread housing finance crisis to jeopardize the security of working class families across America. Against that backdrop, the prospect of a trade agreement that would contribute to more lost jobs, shrinking paychecks, and our nation's ever-increasing trade deficit is most unwelcome; and

Whereas, The ramped-up outsourcing of American jobs that has followed various trade agreements has contributed to the virtual disappearance of much of the manufacturing in our country. Any trade agreement that ignores this track record and fails to implement more appropriate policies is unacceptable. We must take a stand to safeguard jobs that built much of our middle class; and

Whereas, In addition to concerns many have expressed about the agreement's harm to American workers, Colombia's treatment of its own citizens, including trade unionists, should give us pause. There are also some observers who feel that the trend to larger scale farming and the displacement of small farms that would likely take place because of the Colombia Free Trade Agreement could add to instability in this dangerous part of the world; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to reject the Colombia Free Trade Agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.