

1 SJR17
2 133513-2
3 By Senators Waggoner, Ward, Scofield, Dial, and Pittman
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 08-FEB-12

8 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES TO INITIATE
9 NEGOTIATIONS TO ENTER INTO A BILATERAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
10 WITH TURKEY.

11
12 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the United
13 States to strengthen US-Turkish relations through productive
14 diplomatic, economy, military, and strategic relations in an
15 increasingly complex world; and

16 WHEREAS, Turkey is a democratic, secular, unitary,
17 constitutional republic, with a rich cultural heritage that
18 spans more than 10,000 years with a westward-looking future;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Turkey is the sixth largest economy in
21 Europe; the sixteenth largest economy in the world, and is the
22 seventh most visited tourism destination in the world; and

23 WHEREAS, Turkey is a founding member of the
24 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
25 and the Group of Twenty (G-20); and

26 WHEREAS, the Turkish Union of Chambers of Commerce
27 and Commodity Exchanges is a leading private sector

1 organization in the global economy; Turkey has signed 16 free
2 trade agreements with several countries and the European Free
3 Trade Association, 14 of which are in effect, and is in
4 negotiations to enter into free trade agreements with several
5 other countries, including Canada, Lebanon, South Africa, and
6 Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, United States' exports account for 6.09
8 percent of goods that enter Turkey; and

9 WHEREAS, closer relations with Turkey through free
10 trade agreements would encourage further privatization in
11 Turkey's economy and support Turkish investment in the State
12 of Alabama; and

13 WHEREAS, from 2000 to 2009, Turkey's imports posted
14 a 158 percent increase and imports from free trade agreement
15 countries increased by 118 percent; and

16 WHEREAS, enriching the economy and cultural heritage
17 of the State of Alabama, Turkey is the featured country of the
18 Birmingham International Center Spotlight Program 2010-11,
19 jointly with the Turkish American Association of Alabama and
20 Assembly of Turkish American Associations; and

21 WHEREAS, many Turkish-Alabamians and many
22 institutions such as Turkish American Chamber of Commerce
23 Southeast, Peace Valley Foundation, and Istanbul Center have
24 been organizing and sponsoring numerous events in the State of
25 Alabama Since 2001; these activities have been strengthening
26 the economical, cultural, and social ties between Turkey and
27 Alabama; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we express support for the
3 United States to initiate negotiations to enter into a
4 bilateral free trade agreement with Turkey.