

By: Representative Banks

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

1 A RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., TO END  
2 THE TARIFF WAR THAT IS HARMING THE LIVELIHOODS OF MISSISSIPPI  
3 FARMERS.

4 WHEREAS, according to the Mississippi State University  
5 Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, there  
6 are approximately 36,200 farms in Mississippi, comprising 10.7  
7 million acres, and 16,355 of those farms represent the sole  
8 occupation of the families who live and work there, and there are  
9 another 19.7 million acres of timberlands in production in the  
10 state, impacting approximately 125,000 Mississippi landowners; and

11 WHEREAS, the farm gate value of Mississippi agriculture  
12 production is about \$7.56 billion annually, and agriculture and  
13 forestry production add a combined \$16.41 billion to Mississippi's  
14 economy; and

15 WHEREAS, ranking as one of the top 10 states for the amount  
16 of crops produced nationwide, Mississippi primarily produces, in  
17 order of market segment, poultry and eggs, timber, soybeans,  
18 cotton and corn, and it is the nation's top catfish producing



19 state and also ranks high in production of pulpwood, sweet  
20 potatoes, cotton, cottonseed, broilers, rice, peanuts and  
21 blueberries; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2018, former President Trump announced \$50  
23 billion in tariffs against China, and the Chinese quickly  
24 responded with similar tariffs, mostly against agriculture  
25 products in the United States, with one of the primary products  
26 impacted being soybeans, which is Mississippi's top exported  
27 product; and

28 WHEREAS, because trade rifts with China brought a twenty-five  
29 percent tariff on soybeans, and with total national soybean  
30 exports to China topping more than \$12 billion annually, talk of  
31 trade wars and tariffs are worrisome to Mississippi farmers  
32 because Mississippi's portion of those exports to China were  
33 \$109.7 million in 2017, and because of China's retaliatory tariffs  
34 against our nation, there has been a significant economic impact  
35 on Mississippi farmers whose livelihoods depend on these exported  
36 products; and

37 WHEREAS, for Mississippians, the impact of the current and  
38 proposed tariffs could be tremendous because soybeans are a \$1.1  
39 billion industry in the state and the third highest agricultural  
40 crop behind poultry and forestry, according to the Mississippi  
41 Department of Agriculture and Commerce, with more than 110 million  
42 bushels being harvested in 2017 on almost 2.2 million acres from  
43 3,274 farms in the state; and



44           WHEREAS, the retaliatory tariffs imposed by China are  
45 expected to impact other products, such as cotton and corn,  
46 American beef, whisky, passenger vehicles, industrial chemicals,  
47 wheat, sorghum and tobacco; and

48           WHEREAS, because China has imposed retaliation tariffs  
49 against the United States, the livelihoods of Mississippi farmers  
50 have been drastically impacted, and for our state to see an end to  
51 these issues, current trading relationships must be preserved and  
52 new opportunities for agricultural trade must be secured for the  
53 growth and renewed prosperity of agriculture in Mississippi:

54           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
55 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
56 urge President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to end the tariff war, which  
57 is harming the livelihoods of Mississippi farmers.

58           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
59 furnished to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

