

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 355

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to negotiations between the United States Government and the governments of Mexico and Canada with regard to the North American Development Bank and the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2002

Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. ORTIZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to negotiations between the United States Government and the governments of Mexico and Canada with regard to the North American Development Bank and the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission.

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that, in negotiations with the governments of
3 Mexico and Canada with regard to the North American
4 Development Bank (NADB) and the Border Environ-
5 mental Cooperation Commission (BECC), the United

1 States Government should seek to achieve the following
2 goals:

3 (1) FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
4 INSTITUTIONS.—

5 (A) Maintain the NADB and the BECC as
6 separate entities.

7 (B) Review the certification process to lay
8 the groundwork for possible simplification and
9 improvement of the certification process, with
10 an opportunity for all interested parties to par-
11 ticipate.

12 (C) Use the review of the procurement
13 process to improve the quality and efficiency of
14 project development and lower the costs of tech-
15 nical assistance, and ensure early NADB in-
16 volvement in project development to avoid later
17 conflicts.

18 (D) Require the boards of the BECC and
19 the NADB to consult with interested parties in
20 exploring options for better follow-up of
21 projects.

22 (2) UNUSED NADB LENDING CAPACITY.—

23 (A) Devote \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000
24 of paid-in capital to the low-interest financing

1 facility to provide lower interest rates for bor-
2 der environmental infrastructure projects.

3 (B) Increase the United States contribu-
4 tion to the Border Environmental Infrastruc-
5 ture Grant Fund, consistent with the 5-year
6 outlook needs assessment of the NADB.

7 (C) Allow most remaining paid-in capital
8 and callable capital of the NADB to be used for
9 lending to other infrastructure projects. The
10 United States and Mexico should invite Canada
11 to participate in this aspect of NADB oper-
12 ations. BECC certification should not be re-
13 quired of such other infrastructure projects.
14 However, the NADB should develop a set of
15 procedures, in consultation with interested par-
16 ties, to provide for transparency and public par-
17 ticipation in development and approval of such
18 projects, and for environmental assessment and
19 mitigation.

20 (3) PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE INSTITU-
21 TIONS.—

22 (A) Require a third-party to conduct a
23 comprehensive review of the NADB and the
24 BECC to study where structural inefficiencies

1 should be improved in the NADB and the
2 BECC.

3 (B) The review should include an assess-
4 ment of expanding the mandate of the NADB
5 and the BECC with respect to infrastructure
6 projects with an environmental focus, and a
7 management audit, performance audit, procure-
8 ment audit, and financial analysis.

9 (C) The review should also include an
10 analysis of the potential effects of any changes
11 made to the process for certification by the
12 BECC, and funding by the NADB of border
13 environmental infrastructure projects.

14 (D) The review should be conducted in
15 consultation with all the stakeholders in the
16 NADB and the BECC, including border states
17 and municipalities, the Good Neighbor Environ-
18 mental Board, Consejo Consultivo Region I,
19 project applicants, nongovernmental organiza-
20 tions involved in border issues, and academics.

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