

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1266

Congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressing support for continuing to enlarge the alliance.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressing support for continuing to enlarge the alliance.

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) met in April 2008 to enlarge the alliance, to reaffirm the purpose of NATO to defend the populations, territories, and forces in the Euro-Atlantic region, and to further strengthen the ability of NATO to confront existing and emerging 21st-century security threats;

Whereas NATO invited Albania and Croatia to begin accession talks to join NATO and indicated that those talks will begin immediately, with the aim of signing Accession

Protocols by the end of July 2008 and completing the ratification process without delay;

Whereas NATO expressed recognition of the hard work and commitment demonstrated by other countries that aspire to join NATO and commended those countries for their efforts to build multiethnic societies;

Whereas NATO agreed that Ukraine and Georgia have made valuable contributions to NATO operations, expressed clear support for the applications for Membership Action Plans from Ukraine and Georgia as the next step to full membership, and stated that NATO will begin a period of intensive engagement with Ukraine and Georgia to assess those applications for the December 2008 meeting;

Whereas NATO invited Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to begin an Intensified Dialogue on the full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to their aspirations to join NATO;

Whereas NATO expressed the desire to develop an ambitious and substantive relationship with Serbia, making full use of Serbia's membership in the Partnership for Peace, and to make more progress toward integrating Serbia into the Euro-Atlantic community, including through an Intensified Dialogue following a request by Serbia; and

Whereas NATO's ongoing enlargement process has been a historic success in advancing stability and cooperation and reaching the transatlantic goal of ensuring that Europe is whole and free, and united in peace, democracy, and common values: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) congratulates Albania and Croatia on being
- 3 invited by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

1 (NATO) to begin accession talks and recognizes the
2 historic nature of that achievement, earned through
3 years of hard work and a demonstrated commitment
4 to common security and the shared values of NATO
5 members;

6 (2) expresses strong support for the timely com-
7 pletion of the accession process with Albania and
8 Croatia;

9 (3) fully supports the invitations to initiate an
10 Intensified Dialogue between NATO and Bosnia and
11 Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia;

12 (4) supports the enlargement of NATO and be-
13 lieves that continued engagement with all countries
14 that aspire to join NATO will strengthen security
15 for all countries in the Euro-Atlantic region;

16 (5) supports the declaration of NATO at the
17 Bucharest Summit, which states that NATO's door
18 should remain open to European democracies willing
19 and able to assume the responsibilities and obliga-
20 tions of membership, in accordance with article 10
21 of the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington
22 April 4, 1949 (TIAS 1964); and

23 (6) affirms the statement in that declaration
24 that any decision with respect to the membership of
25 countries in NATO will be made through consensus,

- 1 by members of NATO, and no country outside of
- 2 NATO has a vote or veto with respect to such deci-
- 3 sions.

