

RESOLUTION NO. 3415, as Amended

A RESOLUTION of the Port Commission of the Port of Seattle expressing support of Permanent Normal Trade Relations between the United States and China

WHEREAS, international trade is vitally important to the continued strong growth of the United States economy, creating jobs and new economic opportunity for working families and business; and

WHEREAS, one of every three jobs in Washington State is supported by two-way international trade flows; and

WHEREAS, China is the Port of Seattle's second-largest trading partner, and Washington State ranks as the nation's leading exporter of goods and services to China and Hong Kong with a value of more than \$5 billion in 1998; and

WHEREAS, China is the Port of Seattle's fastest growing trading partner, with the value of two-way trade totaling more than \$8 billion in 1999; and

WHEREAS, China and the Port of Seattle have strong economic ties that date to the reopening of trade between our two nations in 1979, including sister-port relationships with the Ports of Shanghai and Qingdao; and

WHEREAS, major shipping lines serving the Port of Seattle have longstanding trade and shipping ties with China, reflecting the rapid increase in trade between Washington State and China; and

WHEREAS, the bilateral trade accord signed last November by the United States and China holds the potential for tremendous new benefits for Washington workers and economic sectors including aerospace, agriculture, high technology and services; and

WHEREAS, under this historic agreement, China pledges to reduce dramatically tariffs and subsidies on wheat, apples, beef and other food products; to adhere to international intellectual property rights agreements; eliminate market access barriers; and to permit foreign investment in telecommunications, financial services and insurance; and

WHEREAS, China's entry into the World Trade Organization ("WTO") requires it to open its markets and to abide by the same internationally recognized rules as other WTO members, further integrating China into the world community and enhancing global economic stability; and

WHEREAS, a vote by the United States Congress on Permanent Normal Trade Relations is a vote to enable the United States to receive the same benefits other WTO members will receive upon China's membership, not a vote on China's imminent accession to the WTO; and


WHEREAS, the United States, to receive the benefits of China's membership in the WTO, must approve Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China or risk putting United States farmers, workers, and companies at a severe competitive disadvantage with other nations; and

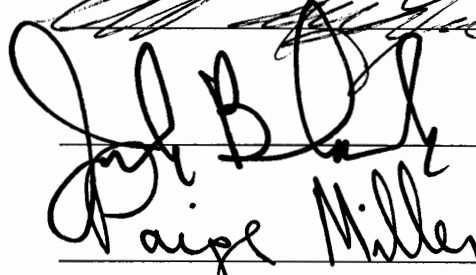
WHEREAS, granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations to China will foster continued improvement in human rights by further integrating China into the world community, spurring economic reforms and exposing its citizens to new information and ideas; and

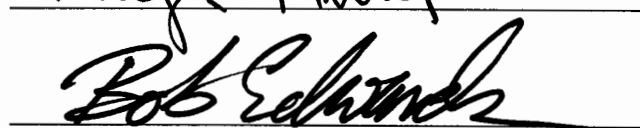
WHEREAS, China's opening trade for the last two decades has transformed the lives of the Chinese people while advancing American and Asian security interests, and has provided a powerful stimulus to move China closer to a fair market economy;

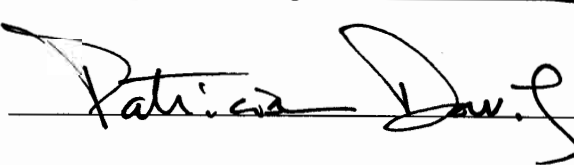
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Port Commission of the Port of Seattle that the Port of Seattle strongly supports granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China and urges the United States Congress to enact Permanent Normal Trade Relations as soon as possible.

ADOPTED by the Port Commission of the Port of Seattle at a regular meeting thereof, held this 20th day of April, 2000, and duly authenticated in open session by the signatures of the Commissioners voting in favor thereof and the seal of the Commission.





Paige Miller


Bob Edmunds


Patricia Daw

Port Commission