

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
OFFICE

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Governmental Affairs Office

740 Fifteenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005-1022  
(202) 662-1760  
FAX: (202) 662-1762

DIRECTOR

Robert D. Evans

rdevans@staff.abanet.org

SENIOR LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL  
Denise A. Cardman  
(202) 662-1761  
cardmand@staff.abanet.org

Kevin J. Driscoll  
(202) 662-1766  
driscollk@staff.abanet.org

Lillian B. Gaskin  
(202) 662-1768  
gaskinl@staff.abanet.org

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL  
R. Larson Frisby  
(202) 662-1098  
frisbyr@staff.abanet.org

Kristi Gaines  
(202) 662-1763  
gainesk@staff.abanet.org

Kenneth J. Goldsmith  
(202) 662-1789  
goldsmithk@staff.abanet.org

Ellen McBarnette  
(202) 662-1767  
mcbarnee@staff.abanet.org

E. Bruce Nicholson  
(202) 662-1769  
nicholsonb@staff.abanet.org

DIRECTOR GRASSROOTS  
OPERATIONS/LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL  
Julie M. Strandlie  
(202) 662-1764  
strandlj@staff.abanet.org

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
LAW CONSULTANT  
Hayden Gregory  
(202) 662-1772  
gregoryh@staff.abanet.org

STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL  
Rita C. Aguilar  
(202) 662-1780  
aguilarr@staff.abanet.org

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
Julie Pasatiempo  
(202) 662-1776  
jpasatiempo@staff.abanet.org

STAFF DIRECTOR FOR  
INFORMATION SERVICES  
Sharon Greene  
(202) 662-1014  
greenes@staff.abanet.org

EDITOR WASHINGTON LETTER  
Rhonda J. McMillion  
(202) 662-1017  
mcmillionr@staff.abanet.org

May 4, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam Minority Leader:

On behalf of the American Bar Association, I write to urge the defeat of H. J. Res. 27, introduced March 2, 2005, which would rescind Congressional approval of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and its various annexes. Passage of this Resolution would harm the United States economically and undermine hard-won U.S. accomplishments over the last half-century in liberalizing trade and advancing the rule of law.

The ABA has a long history of promoting the international rule of law and has been active on international trade issues, consistently expressing our support for continued progress toward a liberalized, rules-based trading system that has the potential to provide the basis for increased trade, sustainable development, and prosperity.

The WTO agreements help sustain an open trading regime for goods and services, and the WTO itself provides an essential institutional forum for further rules-based liberalization of commerce among nations. These agreements, which bear the stamp of intensive U.S. negotiating efforts over several decades, help ensure that the United States succeeds economically in the many areas where it has a comparative advantage. Not all of the WTO rules are perfect, and not all of the dispute settlement decisions interpreting those rules accord with the interpretations favored or expected by the United States, but membership in the WTO has advanced, and continues to advance, U.S. interests far more than would withdrawal from the Organization or repudiation of its basic texts.

The ABA stands ready to work with Congress to help ensure a decisive vote against this damaging Resolution. Please contact Kristi Gaines in the ABA's Governmental Affairs Office at (202) 662-1763 if we may be of assistance in this effort.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Evans

cc: Hon. Bill Thomas, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means  
Hon. Charles Rangel, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means  
Hon. Rob Portman, U.S. Trade Representative