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May 4, 2005

The Honorable William Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Majority Leader and Mr. 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. Charles Grassley, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
Hon. Max Baucus, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Hon. Rob Portman, U.S. Trade Representative

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