
By: **Senators Stone, Currie, DeGrange, Della, Dyson, Green, Hollinger,
Hughes, Jimeno, Kasemeyer, Klausmeier, McFadden, Miller, and Ruben**
Introduced and read first time: March 6, 2006
Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Ports - Delay of the Sale of Port Operations**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the President of the United States to delay the sale of
4 the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company to Dubai Ports World
5 until there has been a thorough public review and disclosure of the transaction;
6 and supporting the enactment of legislation by the U.S. Congress imposing a
7 moratorium on the sale and urging a congressional override if the President
8 vetoes the moratorium legislation and refuses to delay the sale pending a
9 thorough public review and disclosure.

10 WHEREAS, The Bush Administration has approved the sale of Peninsular and
11 Oriental Steam Navigation Company to Dubai Ports World, a business owned by the
12 United Arab Emirates; and

13 WHEREAS, The sale of Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
14 would place Dubai Ports World in control of major shipping operations in Baltimore,
15 Maryland, as well as the cities of New Orleans, Louisiana, Miami, Florida, and
16 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the states of New York and New Jersey; and

17 WHEREAS, Numerous governors, mayors, and members of Congress,
18 regardless of geography or political affiliation, have asked the President to delay the
19 sale pending a thorough public study of the transaction; and

20 WHEREAS, The President has responded to requests for a delay with a threat
21 to veto any legislation that might hinder the transaction; and

22 WHEREAS, The sale was approved behind closed doors by the Committee on
23 Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), an interagency committee chaired
24 by the United States Secretary of the Treasury; and

25 WHEREAS, CFIUS has the power to review any proposed foreign acquisition of
26 a corporation that may threaten American national security; and

27 WHEREAS, The President also has authority to suspend or prohibit any such
28 acquisition; and

1 WHEREAS, There are serious questions concerning the security and safety of
2 the citizens of Maryland and the American people should the operations of our ports
3 be placed under the control of a company controlled by a foreign government; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
6 General Assembly requests that the President of the United States delay the sale of
7 the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company to Dubai Ports World until
8 there has been a thorough public review and disclosure of the transaction; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly supports the enactment of legislation
11 by the U. S. Congress to impose a moratorium on the sale of the Peninsular and
12 Oriental Steam Navigation Company to Dubai Ports World and, if the President
13 vetoes such legislation and refuses to delay the sale pending a thorough public review
14 and disclosure of the transaction, the General Assembly urges the Congress to
15 override the veto; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
17 Legislative Services to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States;
18 the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A.
19 Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives
20 Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R.
21 Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and
22 Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the
23 Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V.
24 Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Michael E.
25 Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.