

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 534

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of State to take such actions as may be necessary for the United States to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “U.S. Wants to Com-
3 pete for a World Expo Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Bureau of International Expositions
7 (BIE) is the organization responsible for governing
8 World Fairs and International Expositions.

9 (2) Section 1(a) of Public Law 91–269 (22
10 U.S.C. 2801(a)) found that “international expo-
11 sitions * * * have a significant impact on the eco-
12 nomic growth of the region surrounding the expo-
13 sition and * * * are important instruments of na-
14 tional policy”.

15 (3) The United States has not been an active
16 member of the BIE since 2001.

17 (4) State and local governments and private en-
18 tities in the United States have continued to partici-
19 pate in international expositions held in foreign
20 countries as a means of promoting United States ex-
21 ports and creating jobs, but face significantly higher
22 costs for such participation because the United
23 States is not an active member.

24 (5) State and local governments and private en-
25 tities in the United States have expressed interest in
26 an international exposition being hosted in the

1 United States, but the bid of a United States city,
2 region, or State to host an international exposition
3 is unlikely to be successful if the United States is
4 not a member of the BIE.

5 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

7 (1) the United States should rejoin the BIE im-
8 mediately to promote domestic job creation, global
9 branding, and tourism to the United States;

10 (2) the Secretary of State, in partnership with
11 the Secretary of Commerce, State and local govern-
12 ments, and private and non-profit entities, should
13 take all necessary steps to facilitate the timely sub-
14 mission of a request to rejoin the BIE; and

15 (3) funding for the participation of the United
16 States in international expositions or other events
17 facilitated by the BIE should continue to be pri-
18 vately solicited and sourced, in accordance with ex-
19 isting law.

20 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is author-
22 ized to take such actions as the Secretary determines nec-
23 essary for the United States to rejoin and maintain mem-
24 bership in the BIE.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT PRIVATE CON-
 2 TRIBUTIONS.—In addition to funds otherwise available to
 3 the Secretary to carry out this section, the Secretary is
 4 authorized to accept contributions for such purpose.

5 (c) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State shall no-
 6 tify the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropria-
 7 tions of the House of Representatives and the Committees
 8 on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate
 9 upon taking any action under subsection (a).

10 **SEC. 5. CONTINUATION OF PROHIBITION ON USE OF FED-**
 11 **ERAL FUNDS FOR WORLD'S FAIR PAVILIONS**
 12 **AND EXHIBITS.**

13 Nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize
 14 any obligation or expenditure prohibited by section 204
 15 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan For-
 16 eign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and
 17 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b) (relating to limitations on the
 18 obligation or expenditure of funds by the Department of
 19 State for a United States pavilion or exhibit at an inter-
 20 national exposition or world's fair registered by the BIE).

Passed the House of Representatives April 25, 2017.

Attest:

Clerk.

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