Assembly Joint Resolution No. 10—Assemblymen Pierce, Parks, Koivisto, Arberry, Claborn, McClain, Ohrenschall and Segerblom

FILE NUMBER.........

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to reevaluate the “fast track” approval of international trade agreements.

WHEREAS, As international trade has evolved in recent years under the “fast track” authority by which Congress reviews international trade agreements involving the United States, the authority for which will expire on June 30, 2007, significant questions have developed with respect to the continuing ability of states to retain their character, environmental controls and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Under “fast track” rules, the review of complex trade agreements by Congress is limited to a vote to approve or reject the agreements, after limited time for consideration, without the possibility of amendments; and

WHEREAS, Trade agreements today have an impact which extends significantly beyond the bounds of traditional trade matters such as tariffs and quotas, and instead grant foreign investors and service providers certain rights and privileges regarding acquisition of land and facilities and regarding operations within a state’s territory, subject state laws to challenge as “non-tariff barriers to trade” in the binding dispute resolution bodies that accompany the pacts and place limits on the future policy options of state legislatures; and

WHEREAS, Despite the demonstrated variety of significant impacts that trade and investment agreements have on state governance, taxation authority, environmental protection, land use regulation and many other areas of state interest, states and local governments have not received assurances that their concerns will be adequately addressed in any “fast track” renewal process; and

WHEREAS, Federal legislation should clarify the negotiating agenda of the United States in a manner that establishes a stronger role for states and should include an explicit mechanism for the prior informed consent of affected state legislatures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature hereby urges Congress to reevaluate the “fast track” approval of international trade agreements, and to consider replacing that authority with a
more democratic, inclusive and deliberative mechanism which takes into consideration the concerns of state legislatures and authorizes their participation in the international trade agreement process; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.