HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

INTRODUCED BY G. FORRESTER

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA STRONGLY URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STEPS TO STOP THE AIRLINES' EXCLUSIONARY PRACTICE OF OFFERING DISCOUNTED AIRFARES ONLY ON THEIR OWN INTERNET SITES.

WHEREAS, the travel industry and all of its components are a vital part of the United States economy; and

WHEREAS, the airlines are an integral part of the United States travel industry, and full access to each airline's pricing is desirable for all members of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, the airlines offer discounted airfares through their own Internet sites that are not available through any other distribution channel; and

WHEREAS, this choice of distribution channel specifically excludes individuals who do not have Internet access or do not want to expose their credit cards to the risk of the Internet; and

WHEREAS, there exist well-developed and very secure distribution channels, such as the computer reservation systems once owned by the airlines, that are used by travel agents and that do not require members of the traveling public to have Internet access; and

WHEREAS, discounted prices obtained over the Internet are sold at a loss to the airlines, and the airfares available to the general public are sold at an increased profit so as to compensate for the losses for airfares sold over the Internet; and

WHEREAS, opening access to all airfares through all distribution channels would cause the airlines to reconsider this pricing strategy and make all airfares reasonable and equitable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the federal government be strongly urged to take steps to stop the airlines' exclusionary practice of offering discounted airfares only on their own Internet sites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the Montana Congressional Delegation.

- END -