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2003 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 31

May 1, 2003 - Introduced by Representatives Kreibich, Lassa, Suder, Hines, MUSSER, TOWNSEND, McCormick and Owens, cosponsored by Senators Zien, DARLING, SCHULTZ and RISSER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: supporting the admission of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to the

2 North Atlantic Treaty Organization. 3 Whereas, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are free, democratic, and independent nations with a long and proud history; and 4 5 Whereas, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania struggled long and hard to overthrow 6 the voke of oppression visited upon them by the former Soviet Union; and 7 Whereas, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is dedicated to the 8 preservation of freedom and security for its member nations; and 9 Whereas, since 1994, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have been active members 10 of NATO's Partnership for Peace Program of cooperation between NATO and individual partner countries and are contributing to NATO's peace operations in the 11 12 Balkans and currently also in central Asia, and are developing their defense through

close coordination with NATO through the Membership Action Program; and

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Whereas, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania desire to share in both the benefits
and obligations of NATO in pursuing the development, growth, and promotion of
democratic institutions and ensuring free market economic development; and

Whereas, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania recognize their responsibilities as democratic nations and are exercising such responsibilities in concert with members of NATO — an example being their declaration along with full NATO members of solidarity and support for the United States in the common fight against terrorism; and

Whereas, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and the United States, as well as members of NATO, and other qualified NATO candidate countries find that their security is indivisible from the stability of central Europe and the Baltic Sea region; and

Whereas, the Council of State Governments of the United States passed a resolution in April 2002 endorsing the enlargement of NATO to include Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and other qualified candidate nations who share the values fundamental to NATO; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin legislature urges NATO to admit Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and other qualified candidate nations, into NATO; and, be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this joint resolution be sent by the chief clerk of the assembly to NATO.

22 (END)