

**\*\*NO HARD COPY WILL FOLLOW\*\***

# **MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Legislation: Resolution urging Congress to issue and apology for passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative W. Curtis Thomas

**DATE:** June 2, 2011

In the very near future, I will be introducing a resolution urging the United States Congress to issue a formal apology for passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Enactment of this measure stands as perhaps the most stringent and far reaching restriction on immigration in U.S. history. As you may know, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed by Congress and signed by president Chester A. Arthur in 1882. The Act placed a ten year prohibition on Chinese immigration to the United States and placed restrictions on Chinese people already settled in the U.S. The prohibition was subsequently extended until it was finally lifted six decades later in 1943. Sadly, this Act led to increased hostility towards Chinese Americans and stood as a statement of the low esteem with which the United States viewed the contributions made by individuals of Chinese descent. As our nation continues to embrace racial and cultural diversity, it is also important that we acknowledge past injustices in an effort to continue on a path towards racial and cultural harmony.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Evan Jones in my Harrisburg office at (717) 787-9471 or [ejones@pahouse.net](mailto:ejones@pahouse.net). Thank you in advance for your consideration.