

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 59

Reps. Coleman, Breen, Puri, Pohutsky, Brenda Carter, Morgan, Wegela, Hoskins, Rogers, McFall and Whitsett offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the United States government and
2 Michiganders to strengthen ties with Taiwan.

3 Whereas, The United States and Taiwan have strong ties based
4 on shared ideals and robust bilateral trade. Taiwan shares the
5 values of freedom, democracy, human rights, rule of law, peace, and
6 prosperity with the United States and the state of Michigan. In
7 2021, the United States ranked as Taiwan's second-largest trading
8 partner, while Taiwan was the eighth-largest trading partner of the
9 United States, counting the European Union as a single trading
10 partner. The countries shared 113.9 billion dollars in two-way
11 goods trade and 19.8 billion dollars in two-way services trade in

1 that year; and

2 Whereas, Taiwan is a particularly important trade partner for
3 our nation's agricultural industry. Taiwan imported 3.9 billion
4 dollars' worth of agricultural products from the United States in
5 2021, making it the sixth-largest market for United States food and
6 agricultural products overall. Examining individual agricultural
7 products, Taiwan was the seventh-largest market for United States
8 soybeans and corn in 2021. Due to our high-quality produce, the
9 United States remains one of Taiwan's largest sources of
10 agricultural products, supplying more than one-fifth of the
11 country's total agricultural imports in 2020; and

12 Whereas, The state of Michigan and Taiwan have enjoyed a
13 mutually beneficial relationship, with strong bilateral trade and a
14 long history of educational and cultural exchanges. Taiwan was
15 Michigan's tenth-largest export market in Asia in 2022, with over
16 313 million dollars' worth of Michigan goods exported to Taiwan
17 that year. Since 2006, the Michigan Department of Education and the
18 Taiwanese Ministry of Education have had an English and Chinese
19 language teacher exchange program, helping our citizens to grow
20 closer and learn about each other's cultures. The Taiwan Friendship
21 Caucus in the Michigan Legislature exists to strengthen ties
22 between our governments, our economies, and our people. To ensure
23 this relationship remains strong, Michigan businesses should
24 increase their economic engagement with Taiwan; and

25 Whereas, The United States could take additional steps to
26 strengthen bilateral trade with Taiwan, which would also enhance
27 Taiwan's trade with the state of Michigan. Trade between our
28 nations could be improved if the United States entered into a
29 bilateral trade agreement and an avoidance of double taxation

1 agreement with Taiwan. Taiwan could also be included in the Indo-
2 Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), a partnership
3 between many Indo-Pacific nations and the United States that was
4 created to strengthen economic cooperation. The United States
5 invited other Indo-Pacific partners to join the IPEF in May 2022,
6 and Taiwan should be invited to and included in this partnership;
7 and

8 Whereas, Taiwan has adopted a policy of "steadfast diplomacy"
9 in its foreign relations. This policy "aims at mutual benefit and
10 peace, creating sustainable partnerships with diplomatic allies,
11 and strengthening substantive ties in multiple fields with friendly
12 and like-minded countries." Taiwan is clearly willing to
13 collaborate with the world to deal with global challenges and seek
14 a brighter future together; now, therefore, be it

15 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
16 United States government and Michiganders to strengthen ties with
17 Taiwan; and be it further

18 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
19 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States
20 House of Representatives, the President of the United States
21 Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.