

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 37

Senators Geiss, Shink, Bayer, Polehanki and Santana offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the President of the United States and
2 the United States Congress to renew the African Growth and
3 Opportunity Act and expand the program to include other sub-Saharan
4 African countries.

5 Whereas, The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was
6 enacted in May 2000 to provide eligible sub-Saharan African
7 countries with duty-free access to the United States market for
8 certain products. The program covers over 1,800 products beyond
9 those eligible for duty-free access under the Generalized System of
10 Preferences, a broader U.S. trade preference program. To become and
11 remain eligible for duty-free access, countries must establish or
12 make continual progress toward establishing a market-based economy,
13 the rule of law, political pluralism, and the right to due process.

1 Eligible countries must also eliminate barriers to trade and
2 investment with the United States and enact policies to reduce
3 poverty, combat corruption, and protect human rights; and

4 Whereas, A total of 49 countries are potentially eligible for
5 the AGOA trade preferences, but the number of beneficiaries varies
6 over time, as the President of the United States reviews each
7 country's eligibility on an annual basis. The first designation of
8 eligible countries was made on October 2, 2000, by President Bill
9 Clinton, and between 2001 and 2024, the number of eligible
10 countries has ranged from 31 to 41. In 2024, there were 32 AGOA-
11 eligible countries; and

12 Whereas, The AGOA has been amended multiple times to clarify
13 preferential treatment terms, to modify technical standards, and,
14 critically, to extend sunset provisions. The program had an initial
15 expiration date of September 2008, but President George W. Bush
16 signed the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 to extend the program's
17 operation through September 2015. In June 2015, President Barack
18 Obama signed the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, thereby
19 extending the AGOA's validity to its current sunset date of
20 September 2025; and

21 Whereas, The United States continues to import significant
22 quantities of goods from AGOA-eligible countries. Total AGOA
23 imports were valued at 9.3 billion dollars in 2023 and 8.0 billion
24 dollars in 2024. Crude oil accounted for a quarter of these imports
25 in 2024, with Nigeria alone supplying 1.6 billion dollars in crude
26 oil to the United States. Major categories of non-energy imports
27 included passenger vehicles, apparel, agricultural and food
28 products, base metals, and chemicals. South Africa remains our
29 largest source of AGOA imports, excluding crude oil; and

1 Whereas, The state of Michigan engaged in over a billion
2 dollars' worth of two-way trade with AGOA-eligible countries in
3 2024. Our state imported nearly 440 million dollars in goods from
4 the 32 AGOA-eligible nations in 2024, and we exported over 566
5 million dollars' worth of goods to those countries. Michigan can
6 and should continue to take advantage of the economic growth
7 promoted by the AGOA and create a two-way pipeline of investment
8 between our state and sub-Saharan Africa; and

9 Whereas, The United States should renew the AGOA program and
10 expand it to include other sub-Saharan countries. The AGOA has been
11 a central pillar of our nation's trade and relations with sub-
12 Saharan Africa for decades, and we should continue to use this
13 program to foster development in the region while simultaneously
14 promoting U.S. interests. Expanding the AGOA to include additional
15 countries could also help Michigan businesses by encouraging these
16 nations to reform their economic and commercial regimes, leading to
17 stronger markets and more effective trading partners for the state
18 of Michigan; now, therefore, be it

19 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the President of the
20 United States and the United States Congress to renew the African
21 Growth and Opportunity Act and expand the program to include other
22 sub-Saharan African countries; and be it further

23 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
24 President of the United States, the President of the United States
25 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
26 and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.