

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 106

Reps. Edwards, McKinney, Myers-Phillips, Foreman, Young, T. Carter, Hoskins, O'Neal, Neeley, B. Carter, Scott, McFall and Andrews 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,

1 the rule of law, political pluralism, and the right to due process.
2 Eligible countries must also eliminate barriers to trade and
3 investment with the United States and enact policies to reduce
4 poverty, combat corruption, and protect human rights; and

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

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

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

1 largest source of AGOA imports, excluding crude oil; and

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

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

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

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