

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 43

By Littleton

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Taiwan for its relations with the United States of America.

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States of America are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation of stability and growth; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979, the Taiwan Travel Act in 2018, and the TAIPEI Act in 2019; in 2020, the U.S. and Taiwan enjoyed a high point in bilateral relations, including through the highest-ranking official visits in forty years and through the establishment of the U.S.-Taiwan Educational Initiative, which expands economic exchanges and promotes academic freedom in English and Mandarin language instruction; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Taiwan achieved immense success combating the COVID-19 pandemic and contributed extensive resources to helping the international community, including through the global donations of tens of millions of surgical and N95 masks, hundreds of thousands of isolation gowns, and tens of thousands of thermometers, and through the donation of 110,000 surgical masks to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, beginning in January 2021, Taiwan is significantly easing export restrictions on U.S. pork and beef products, significantly growing the State of Tennessee's and the United States' agricultural exports to Taiwan and paving the way for deeper economic cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, supporting an estimated 330,000 jobs in the U.S., and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading

partner. Taiwan is Tennessee's twenty-eighth-largest export market and eighth-largest import market; Taiwan invests \$220 million in Tennessee and supports an estimated 2,800 jobs; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the State of Tennessee and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year; by working together with Taiwan, Tennessee welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic and higher educational partnership, such as signing a U.S.-Taiwan Bilateral Investment Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement, as well as embodying public institutions to provide educational or fee concession programs to mutually enhance the special sister-state bond on further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of both nations and to recover better together in the post-pandemic economic recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community with a long history of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental protection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Taiwan on its democratization efforts and meaningful participation in many international organizations and extend our most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Georgia.