

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 95

By Littleton

A RESOLUTION commending Taiwan for its relationships with the United States and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' eighth-largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade totaling \$105 billion in 2021; Tennessee's exports to Taiwan in 2021 increased 22.5 percent over that of 2020 and imports from Taiwan in 2021 increased 12.4 percent over that of 2020, making Taiwan the twenty-fourth largest export market and the eighth-largest import country of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee welcomes all opportunities for an even closer partnership on business, educational, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges between citizens of the U.S. and Taiwan, and collaborating better together in the post-pandemic economic recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has been experiencing continuous threats from the authoritarian neighbor of China, which has encroached on Taiwan's security by launching missiles over it and dispatching numerous aircraft and vessels to enter Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) and cross the Taiwan Strait median line, disseminating disinformation and launching cyberattacks, and repeatedly excluding Taiwan from the international system, as demonstrated through its denial of Taiwan's participation in the United Nations system meetings, mechanisms, conventions, and activities; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the U.S. and Taiwan experienced strengthening in bilateral relations; the launch of the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade facilitates a roadmap for negotiations on an economic and trade agreement with high-standard commitments; numerous elected high-ranking officials visited amid China's provocation; the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 facilitates a defense modernization program for Taiwan to

deter China's aggression; and the signing of the Taiwan-U.S. MOU on Development and Humanitarian Assistance Cooperation highlights that Taiwan is a significant stakeholder globally; and

WHEREAS, being a formal member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) since 1991, Taiwan keeps making great contributions and is an indispensable key player to the welfare of the people in the Asia-Pacific region; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we encourage the members of this body to join the Taiwan Caucus, welcome the establishment of a Tennessee trade office in Taiwan, as South Carolina, New Mexico, Montana, and Pennsylvania have recently done, to attract more investments; encourage our state government officials and members of the General Assembly to conduct more frequent exchanges with their Taiwanese counterparts; and urge the signing of an education cooperation MOU with Taiwan aimed at promoting Mandarin-English language teacher and student exchanges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade and the negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement as Taiwanese companies are looking for a diverse and free market in the U.S. instead of China and Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations and mechanisms such as WHO, UNFCCC, ICAO, INTERPOL, and IPEF.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to Governor Bill Lee, Secretary of State Tre Hargett, and Mr. Elliot Wang, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Georgia.