

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 74

Senators Geiss, Santana, Wojno, Anthony, Shink, Klinefelt, Bayer, Chang, Cherry, Lauwers and Singh 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 to expand it 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 over 1,800 products, as well as over 5,000 products that are  
9 eligible for duty-free access under the Generalized System of  
10 Access Program. To become and remain eligible for duty-free access,  
11 countries must establish or make continual progress towards

1 establishing a market-based economy, the rule of law, political  
2 pluralism, and the right to due process. Eligible countries must  
3 have also eliminated barriers to trade and investment with the  
4 United States and enacted policies to reduce poverty, combat  
5 corruption, and protect human rights; and

6       Whereas, Approximately forty sub-Saharan African countries are  
7 eligible for AGOA beneficiary status. On October 2, 2000, President  
8 Bill Clinton designated thirty-four countries as eligible for trade  
9 benefits provided under the AGOA. Since the AGOA's enactment,  
10 countries have been added and removed from the list of eligible  
11 countries, including Cote d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic,  
12 and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since 2019, Cameroon,  
13 Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, and Burkina Faso have had their AGOA  
14 beneficiary status revoked, while the Democratic Republic of the  
15 Congo was declared an eligible lesser-developed beneficiary sub-  
16 Saharan African country; and

17       Whereas, The AGOA has been amended four times to clarify  
18 preferential treatment terms, technical standards, and sunset  
19 deadlines. With an initial expiration date of September 2007,  
20 President George W. Bush signed the AGOA Acceleration Act in July  
21 2004 and extended the act's expiration date to 2015. In June 2015,  
22 President Barack Obama signed the Trade Preferences Extension Act,  
23 thereby extending the AGOA's validity to its current expiration  
24 date of 2025; and

25       Whereas, United States' imports under the AGOA continue to  
26 grow. Total AGOA imports were valued at 9.4 billion dollars in  
27 2022, an increase of 57 percent from 6.0 billion dollars in 2021  
28 and more than double the value of imports in 2020, during the  
29 height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among these imports, energy

1 product imports, such as crude oil, increased from 1.9 billion  
2 dollars in 2021 to 4.5 billion dollars in 2022, and accounted for  
3 47 percent of AGOA imports. Nigeria was the top supplier of energy  
4 products in 2022, with 3.4 billion dollars imported. Non-energy  
5 imports, such as motor vehicles, textiles, and apparel, increased  
6 by 21 percent in 2022 to 5.0 billion dollars. South Africa was the  
7 top supplier of AGOA non-energy imports, with eligible imports  
8 increasing by 46 percent from 2021 to 2022; and

9       Whereas, The State of Michigan is well-positioned to support  
10 AGOA products from nations like Nigeria, South Africa, and other  
11 sub-Saharan African nations to create a two-way pipeline of  
12 investment for local entrepreneurs in our state. In 2022, Michigan  
13 imported 153 billion dollars, making it the sixth largest importer  
14 out of the 53 importers in the United States. As of May 2023,  
15 Michigan imported 14.7 billion dollars, with cars, parts and  
16 accessories for motor vehicles, delivery trucks, spark ignition  
17 engines, and commodities that were not otherwise specified among  
18 the top imports; and

19       Whereas, It is imperative that the United States renew the  
20 AGOA and expand it to include other sub-Saharan African countries  
21 in an effort to assist with sub-Saharan Africa's regional  
22 integration efforts. Sub-Saharan Africa has already become more  
23 integrated through tariff reduction and increasing trade in the  
24 region. An increase in integration has already led to a growth in  
25 regional exports. Coupled with the types of goods it exports, the  
26 sub-Saharan Africa region is quickly become an attractive trading  
27 partner for the State of Michigan. Expanding the AGOA to include  
28 other sub-Saharan African countries may help Michigan businesses by  
29 encouraging reform of economic and commercial regimes, leading to

1 stronger markets and more effective partners for the State of  
2 Michigan; now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the President of the  
4 United States and the United States Congress to renew the African  
5 Growth and Opportunity Act and to expand it to include other sub-  
6 Saharan African countries; and be it further

7 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
8 President of the United States, the President of the United States  
9 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
10 and the members of Michigan's congressional and senatorial  
11 delegations.