

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52

Senators Runestad, Chang, Wojno, McCann, Webber, Johnson, Theis, Bellino, Shink and Bayer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to express our commitment to strengthening and
2 deepening the ties between the state of Michigan and Taiwan, and to
3 support Taiwan's meaningful participation in and contributions to
4 international organizations.

5 Whereas, The United States and Taiwan have strong ties based
6 on shared ideals and robust bilateral trade. Taiwan shares values
7 of freedom, democracy, human rights, rule of law, peace, and
8 prosperity with the United States and the state of Michigan. In
9 2021, the United States ranked as Taiwan's second-largest trading
10 partner, while Taiwan was the eighth-largest trading partner of the
11 United States, counting the European Union as a single trading
12 partner. The countries shared 113.9 billion dollars in two-way

1 goods trade and 19.8 billion dollars in two-way services trade in
2 that year; and

3 Whereas, Taiwan is a particularly important trade partner for
4 our nation's agricultural industry. Taiwan imported 3.9 billion
5 dollars' worth of agricultural products from the United States in
6 2021, making it the sixth-largest market that year for United
7 States food and agricultural products overall. Examining individual
8 agricultural products, Taiwan was the seventh-largest market for
9 United States soybeans and corn in 2021. Due to our high-quality
10 produce, the United States remains one of Taiwan's largest sources
11 of agricultural products, supplying more than one-fifth of Taiwan's
12 total agricultural imports in 2020; and

13 Whereas, The state of Michigan and Taiwan have enjoyed a
14 mutually beneficial relationship with strong bilateral trade and a
15 long history of educational and cultural exchanges. Taiwan was
16 Michigan's tenth-largest export market in Asia in 2022, with over
17 313 million dollars' worth of Michigan goods exported to Taiwan
18 that year. The Michigan Department of Education and the Taiwanese
19 Ministry of Education have had an English and Chinese language
20 teacher exchange program since 2006. The Taiwan Friendship Caucus
21 in the Michigan Legislature exists to strengthen ties between our
22 governments, our economies, and our people. To ensure this
23 relationship remains strong, Michigan businesses should increase
24 their economic engagement with Taiwan; and

25 Whereas, The United States could take additional steps to
26 strengthen bilateral trade with Taiwan, which would also enhance
27 Taiwan's trade with the state of Michigan. Trade could be
28 facilitated if the United States entered into a bilateral trade
29 agreement and an avoidance of double taxation agreement with

1 Taiwan. Taiwan could also be included in the Indo-Pacific Economic
2 Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), a partnership between many Indo-
3 Pacific nations and the United States that was created to
4 strengthen economic cooperation. The United States invited other
5 Indo-Pacific partners to join the IPEF in May 2022, and Taiwan
6 should be invited to and included in this partnership; and

7 Whereas, In conducting business with Taiwan, Michigan
8 businesses should refer to Taiwan as "Taiwan." In 1979, the United
9 States established a robust partnership with Taiwan by enacting the
10 Taiwan Relations Act. This statute refers to "the governing
11 authorities on Taiwan" as "Taiwan." Furthermore, the act states:
12 "Whenever the laws of the United States refer or relate to foreign
13 countries, nations, states, governments, or similar entities, such
14 terms shall include and such laws shall apply with respect to
15 Taiwan." Michigan businesses should follow federal practice and use
16 the name Taiwan as well; and

17 Whereas, Taiwan has adopted a policy of "steadfast diplomacy"
18 in its foreign relations. This policy "aims at mutual benefit and
19 peace, creating sustainable partnerships with diplomatic allies,
20 and strengthening substantive ties in multiple fields with friendly
21 and like-minded countries." Taiwan is clearly willing to
22 collaborate with the world to deal with global challenges and seek
23 a brighter future together; now, therefore, be it

24 Resolved by the Senate, That we express our commitment to
25 strengthening and deepening the ties between the state of Michigan
26 and Taiwan; and be it further

27 Resolved, That we support Taiwan's meaningful participation in
28 international organizations that impact the health, safety, and
29 well-being of the people of Taiwan, and support Taiwan's aspiration

1 to make more contributions in international societies.