

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 39

Senators Bayer, Chang, Shink and Runestad offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to express our commitment to strengthening and
2 deepening ties between the state of Michigan and Taiwan.

3 Whereas, Taiwan shares values of freedom, democracy, human
4 rights, rule of law, peace, and prosperity with the United States
5 and the state of Michigan; and

6 Whereas, Taiwan and the United States are key partners in
7 trade. The United States ranks as Taiwan's second-largest trading
8 partner, and in 2023, Taiwan was the United States' eighth-largest
9 goods trading partner. Bilateral goods trade reached over 127.7
10 billion dollars in 2023 and over 158.6 billion dollars in 2024; and

11 Whereas, Taiwan is a particularly important market for United
12 States agricultural products. Taiwan imported 3.93 billion dollars'
13 worth of agricultural products from the United States in 2023, and

1 another 3.8 billion dollars' worth of agricultural and related
2 products in 2024. In 2022, the United States Department of
3 Agriculture noted that Taiwan was the fourth-largest export market
4 for U.S. agricultural products on a per capita basis. Furthermore,
5 in 2023, Taiwan was our nation's eighth-largest export market for
6 corn and our sixth-largest export market for soybeans. Due to our
7 nation's high-quality produce, the United States remains one of
8 Taiwan's largest sources of agricultural products, supplying nearly
9 a quarter of Taiwan's agricultural imports in 2023; and

10 Whereas, Taiwan and the state of Michigan have enjoyed a long
11 and mutually beneficial relationship. Michigan has a vibrant
12 Taiwanese American community that has enriched the state's culture,
13 cuisine, and commerce for decades. Taiwan was Michigan's tenth-
14 largest export market in Asia in 2024, with over 257 million
15 dollars' worth of Michigan goods exported to Taiwan that year. In
16 early March 2024, the state of Michigan opened the Michigan Taiwan
17 Office to promote further investment by Taiwanese firms in our
18 state. Recent efforts to build additional connections with Taiwan
19 have already borne fruit, as the Taiwanese business community is
20 partnering with our communities in accordance with our economic
21 strategy of "Make it in Michigan." These partnerships are helping
22 to secure our domestic supply chains and strengthen our research
23 and development in the automotive industry, ensuring our place as
24 the automotive capital of the world. There is great potential for
25 future growth if we continue to deepen our ties with Taiwan; and

26 Whereas, In conducting business with Taiwan, Michigan
27 businesses should refer to Taiwan as "Taiwan." In 1979, the United
28 States enacted the Taiwan Relations Act to provide for the
29 continuation of relations between the people of the United States

1 and the people on the island of Taiwan. Section 4(b)(1) of the act
2 provides: "Whenever the laws of the United States refer or relate
3 to foreign countries, nations, states, governments, or similar
4 entities, such terms shall include and such laws shall apply with
5 respect to Taiwan." Thus, it is legitimate for Michigan businesses
6 to refer to Taiwan as "Taiwan" when conducting business and
7 establishing ties with Taiwan; and

8 Whereas, The United States is actively taking steps to
9 strengthen bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan. On
10 June 1, 2023, representatives of the American Institute in Taiwan
11 and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the
12 United States signed a bilateral trade agreement under the U.S.-
13 Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade, and Congress enacted
14 legislation to approve and implement that agreement in August 2023.
15 The first agreement under the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st
16 Century Trade officially came into effect on December 10, 2024,
17 marking a significant milestone. Negotiations regarding a second
18 agreement are ongoing. While this progress is encouraging, an
19 avoidance of double taxation agreement for Taiwan has not yet been
20 enacted, though legislation on this subject has been approved in
21 the United States House of Representatives. Taiwan also remains
22 excluded from the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity.
23 The United States could take further action to encourage bilateral
24 investment and technical collaboration through tariff reduction and
25 other trade facilitation measures; and

26 Whereas, Tensions between Taiwan and the People's Republic of
27 China seem to be escalating. The Director of the Central
28 Intelligence Agency stated in 2023 that the President of the
29 People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, has instructed the People's

1 Liberation Army to be ready by 2027 to conduct a successful
2 invasion of Taiwan. In 2025, the People's Republic of China has
3 been conducting unannounced military drills using live-fire
4 ammunition near the island of Taiwan. Further, Taiwan reports that
5 Chinese-affiliated ships have intentionally damaged undersea
6 communication cables, which are vital to Taiwan's connection to the
7 world. In navigating relations with the People's Republic of China
8 and Taiwan, the United States is guided by President Reagan's Six
9 Assurances, including the assurance that the United States "[w]ill
10 not exert pressure on Taiwan to enter into negotiations" with the
11 People's Republic of China; and

12 Whereas, Taiwan has undertaken a policy of "integrated
13 diplomacy," highlighting values-based diplomacy, alliance
14 diplomacy, and economic and trade diplomacy. This policy
15 prioritizes mutual assistance and robust relationships with
16 governments that share common values. Taiwan is capable of, and
17 willing to, fulfill its responsibilities and collaborate with the
18 world to deal with the challenges of humanitarian aid and disease
19 control; now, therefore, be it

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

23 Resolved, That we urge all enterprises in Michigan to refer to
24 Taiwan as "Taiwan," consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act; and
25 be it further

26 Resolved, That we urge the United States and Taiwan to enter
27 into additional bilateral trade agreements and an avoidance of
28 double taxation agreement; and be it further

29 Resolved, That we support the inclusion of Taiwan in the Indo-

1 Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity; and be it further

2 Resolved, That we urge the United States to continue our
3 relationship with Taiwan to ensure our shared values of freedom,
4 democracy, human rights, rule of law, peace, and prosperity are
5 upheld by making available to Taiwan such defense articles and
6 defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable
7 Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability; and be it
8 further

9 Resolved, That we urge the United States to continue the
10 policy established in the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act to maintain the
11 capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or
12 other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the
13 social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan; and be it
14 further

15 Resolved, That we support Taiwan's meaningful participation in
16 international organizations, such as the United Nations, the World
17 Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization,
18 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the
19 International Criminal Police Organization, which impact the
20 health, safety, and well-being of not only the people of Taiwan,
21 but the rest of the world; and be it further

22 Resolved, That we support Taiwan's aspiration to make more
23 contributions in international societies; and be it further

24 Resolved, That we support Taiwan in its efforts to increase
25 its international profile.