

By: Sherman, Sr.

H.R. No. 186

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The longstanding bonds of friendship between the
2 United States and Taiwan, embodied in the Taiwan Relations Act of
3 1979, continue to yield important economic, strategic, and cultural
4 benefits; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan ranks as the United States' 10th largest
6 trading partner, and in 2019, bilateral trade in goods reached
7 \$85.5 billion; the seventh-largest export market for
8 U.S. agricultural products, Taiwan's biennial agricultural trade
9 goodwill missions result in multibillion-dollar supply deals, and
10 its annually dispatched delegations to the SelectUSA Investment
11 Summit boost investment; Taiwan's recent action to lift
12 restrictions on U.S. beef and pork beginning in January 2021 will
13 help enhance bilateral trade; and

14 WHEREAS, The robust US-Taiwan trade and investment
15 partnership provides a solid foundation for a mutually beneficial
16 bilateral trade agreement (BTA) to spur job creation, further
17 expand the global market, and secure international supply chains;
18 Taiwan is well positioned to play an important role in augmenting
19 the revitalization of the global supply chain as part of the
20 post-pandemic economic recovery; and

21 WHEREAS, Taiwan is committed to helping address global
22 challenges, from humanitarian crises to nontraditional security
23 threats; moreover, this year it has emerged as an important partner
24 in pandemic prevention, providing 54 million surgical masks and

1 other PPE to more than 80 countries around the world, including
2 nearly 1 million surgical masks from the Taiwan government and
3 Taiwan affiliated private groups to the State and cities of Texas;
4 the Taiwan Model has achieved world renown for its effective
5 pandemic prevention and containment, bolstering unprecedented
6 international support for Taiwan's bid to participate in the World
7 Health Assembly (WHA); and

8 WHEREAS, Taiwanese officials and civil society groups
9 partner with the United States on a range of issues to promote our
10 common values of freedom, democracy, and human rights; in March,
11 Taiwan joined with the United States to establish the Partnership
12 against Coronavirus, building on the cooperative tradition of prior
13 joint partnerships such as the Global Cooperation and Training
14 Framework (GCTF), which advances Taiwanese leadership in such
15 arenas as democratization, human rights, women's empowerment, and
16 public health; and

17 WHEREAS, Since 1988, Texas and Taiwan have maintained a
18 sister-state relationship, and they enjoy particularly close
19 economic ties; Taiwanese firms have invested billions of dollars in
20 a wide range of Texas businesses; Taiwan is Texas' 10th largest
21 foreign market, and in 2019, it imported nearly \$8.47 billion in
22 commodities from Texas, including computers and electronics,
23 industrial machinery equipment, chemicals, and foodstuffs; in
24 turn, Texas imported over \$3.66 billion in Taiwanese goods,
25 primarily computers, electronics, metal products, transportation
26 equipment, and industrial machinery; and

27 WHEREAS, The establishment of a Texas Trade and Investment

1 Office in Taiwan could enhance the participation of small- and
2 medium-sized enterprises in trade and investment, and advance the
3 sister-state tie between Texas and Taiwan; and

4 WHEREAS, Texas and the United States have benefited
5 immeasurably through decades of unwavering friendship with Taiwan,
6 and the wider world is sure to reap tremendous rewards as Taiwan
7 works to enhance its presence in the international community; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
10 Legislature hereby express its support for the strengthening of our
11 partnership with Taiwan and for the expansion of Taiwan's role on
12 the global stage; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives hereby:

14 (a) express support for a bilateral trade agreement between
15 the United States and Taiwan;

16 (b) express support for Taiwan's meaningful participation
17 in the International Criminal Police Organization, the
18 International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations
19 Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the World Health
20 Assembly;

21 (c) express support for a Texas Trade and Investment Office
22 in Taiwan; and

23 (d) celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the enactment of the
24 Taiwan Relations Act and the 33rd anniversary of the sister-state
25 relationship between the State of Texas and Taiwan; and, be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston as
2 an expression of the sentiment of the Texas House of
3 Representatives.