

By: Van Arsdale

H.R. No. 288

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Taiwan is Texas' fifth-largest foreign market, and
2 the agriculture and manufacturing sectors of the Texas economy,
3 most notably the computer and electronic products, chemicals, and
4 machinery industries, would benefit significantly if the United
5 States enacted a free trade agreement with Taiwan; and

6 WHEREAS, A free trade agreement between the U.S. and Taiwan
7 would substantially reduce or eliminate most import quotas, duties,
8 and other trade barriers and expand market opportunities for
9 manufactured goods and agricultural products from Texas and the
10 entire U.S.; and

11 WHEREAS, The U.S. has completed or is in the process of
12 negotiating free trade agreements with several countries and
13 regions; reasons for pursuing a free trade agreement with Taiwan
14 include its status as the United States' eighth-largest trading
15 partner, its robust economy, and its long-standing educational and
16 cultural ties with the U.S.; and

17 WHEREAS, Taiwan was admitted to the World Trade Organization
18 (WTO) on January 1, 2001; a free trade agreement between the U.S.
19 and Taiwan would extend the coverage of WTO agreements to products,
20 sectors, and conditions of trade not adequately covered, and it
21 would provide a platform to address issues such as Taiwan's 15.2
22 percent average tariff rate on agricultural imports from the United
23 States; and

24 WHEREAS, Public Law 107-210, the Trade Act of 2002, gives the

1 president the authority to enter into trade agreements with foreign
2 countries whenever the president determines that one or more
3 existing duties or other import restrictions of any foreign country
4 or the United States are unduly burdening and restricting the
5 foreign trade of the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush, speaking before the
7 historic signing of the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement in
8 2004, emphasized that he supports free and open trade because "it
9 has the power to create new wealth for whole nations and new
10 opportunities for millions of people" and "has a record of creating
11 jobs, raising living standards, and lowering consumer prices"; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
14 Legislature hereby respectfully encourage the president of the
15 United States to extend the benefits of free trade by enacting a
16 free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan; and, be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of
19 Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the
20 president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of
21 representatives and the president of the senate of the United
22 States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to
23 the congress.