

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 1576

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, The island nation of Taiwan has flourished not only  
18 as an economic leader, but also as a sophisticated democracy;  
19 unlike citizens of mainland China, the people of Taiwan can speak  
20 out freely without fear of political repression; and

21 WHEREAS, Taiwan was admitted to the World Trade Organization  
22 (WTO) on January 1, 2001; a free trade agreement between the U.S.  
23 and Taiwan would extend the coverage of WTO agreements to products,  
24 sectors, and conditions of trade not adequately covered, and it

1 would provide a platform to address issues such as Taiwan's 15.2  
2 percent average tariff rate on agricultural imports from the United  
3 States; and

4 WHEREAS, Public Law 107-210, the Trade Act of 2002, allows  
5 the president, in consultation with the United States Congress, to  
6 enter into trade agreements with foreign countries whenever the  
7 president determines that one or more existing duties or other  
8 import restrictions of any foreign country or the United States are  
9 unduly burdening and restricting the foreign trade of the United  
10 States; and

11 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush, speaking before the  
12 historic signing of the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement in  
13 2004, emphasized that he supports free and open trade because "it  
14 has the power to create new wealth for whole nations and new  
15 opportunities for millions of people" and "has a record of creating  
16 jobs, raising living standards, and lowering consumer prices"; now,  
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby respectfully encourage the president of the  
20 United States and the congress to extend the benefits of free trade  
21 by enacting a free trade agreement between the United States and  
22 Taiwan; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of  
24 Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the  
25 president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of  
26 representatives and the president of the senate of the United  
27 States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to

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1 the congress.