

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
25 would provide a platform to address issues such as Taiwan's 15.2

1 percent average tariff rate on agricultural imports from the United
2 States; and

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

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

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

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