

By: Vo

H.R. No. 1045

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For decades, the United States and Taiwan have
2 fostered an important relationship that has been of mutual
3 economic, cultural, and strategic benefit; and

4 WHEREAS, The 22nd-largest economy in the world, Taiwan is the
5 10th-largest trading partner of the United States, and in 2016,
6 bilateral trade in goods and services between the two nations
7 reached \$65.3 billion; and

8 WHEREAS, Taiwan is also the largest per capita importer of
9 U.S. farm products in the world and continues to pursue biennial
10 agricultural procurement missions to the United States to sign
11 multibillion-dollar supply deals, and each year since 2013, it has
12 dispatched a delegation to the SelectUSA Investment Summit; and

13 WHEREAS, In recent years, travel from Taiwan to the United
14 States has increased substantially as a result of significant
15 efforts from both nations to promote tourism and encourage
16 exchanges; those efforts include Taiwan joining the U.S. Visa
17 Waiver Program in 2012, EVA Air launching its direct
18 Taipei-to-Houston route in 2015, and the United States and Taiwan
19 signing a joint statement on an international expedited traveler
20 initiative in 2016; in addition, Taiwan serves as an important hub
21 to other Asian destinations, and its national Civil Aeronautics
22 Administration annually provides services for over 1.5 million
23 controlled flights that carry a total of 58 million passengers; and

24 WHEREAS, Texas has specifically benefited from economic and

1 cultural ties to Taiwan that are nurtured by a vibrant Sister State
2 relationship; state exports to Taiwan were valued at more than \$4.2
3 billion in 2016, making Taiwan the fifth-largest Asian export
4 market for Texas, and some 38,000 jobs in the Lone Star State are
5 supported by companies affiliated with Taiwan; and

6 WHEREAS, American exports to Taiwan, combined with Taiwan's
7 investment in the United States, support more than 330,000
8 good-paying jobs in our country; both nations could realize further
9 economic gains by establishing a free trade agreement and enhancing
10 the platforms of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and
11 the Digital Economy Forum; and

12 WHEREAS, Since its ratification, the Taiwan Relations Act of
13 1979 has been the cornerstone of relations between the United
14 States and Taiwan; both countries have further affirmed their
15 essential economic and security partnership by working together to
16 address global challenges in such areas as international
17 humanitarian assistance, public health, and technology under the
18 Global Cooperation and Training Framework, which was established in
19 June 2015; and

20 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the only full-fledged democracy in the
21 Chinese-speaking world; the results of its 2016 presidential
22 election marked both the country's third peaceful transition of
23 power since 1996 and first transition of the national legislative
24 majority since 1949, proving that Taiwan would be a worthy member of
25 the Community of Democracies; and

26 WHEREAS, As nontraditional security threats increase in the
27 21st century, myriad people would benefit from Taiwan's inclusion

1 and participation in the International Criminal Police
2 Organization (INTERPOL), the International Civil Aviation
3 Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Framework Convention on
4 Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the World Health Assembly (WHA); and

5 WHEREAS, Greater participation by Taiwan in international
6 agreements and organizations will contribute immeasurably to its
7 prosperity, thereby heightening the synergies created through the
8 close and dynamic commercial partnership between Taiwan and the
9 United States; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
11 Legislature hereby express its support for the expansion of
12 Taiwan's role in the international community; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives hereby:

14 (1) encourage Taiwan to negotiate a free trade
15 agreement with the United States;

16 (2) commend the signing of a joint statement on an
17 international expedited traveler initiative between the United
18 States and Taiwan; and

19 (3) express support for Taiwan's meaningful
20 participation in INTERPOL, ICAO, UNFCCC, and WHA; and, be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the 29th anniversary of the Sister State
23 relationship between Texas and Taiwan be commemorated, and that
24 Louis M. Huang, director general of the Taipei Economic and
25 Cultural Office in Houston, be commended for his contributions
26 toward enhancing cooperation between the Lone Star State and
27 Taiwan; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston as
3 an expression of the sentiment of the Texas House of
4 Representatives.