

By: Miller

H.R. No. 23

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 our nation's 11th largest trading
6 partner, and in 2017, bilateral trade in goods and services reached
7 \$68.2 billion; a particularly important market for farmers, Taiwan
8 imports more U.S. agricultural products on a per capita basis than
9 any other nation, and its biennial agricultural procurement
10 missions result in multibillion-dollar supply deals; and

11 WHEREAS, Since 1988, Texas and Taiwan have maintained a
12 sister-state relationship, and they enjoy particularly close
13 economic ties, enhanced in recent years by the tireless efforts of
14 Peter Chen as the director general of the Taipei Economic and
15 Cultural Office in Houston; Taiwan is one of our top 10 foreign
16 markets, and in 2017, it imported nearly \$4.7 billion in
17 commodities from Texas, including computers and electronics,
18 industrial machinery equipment, chemicals, and foodstuffs; in
19 turn, Texas imported over \$2.8 billion in Taiwanese goods,
20 primarily computers, electronics, metal products, transportation
21 equipment, and industrial machinery; and

22 WHEREAS, Taiwanese firms have invested more than \$10 billion
23 in a wide range of Texas businesses, from petrochemicals and
24 automotive parts to electronics, banking, and hospitality; the

1 current president of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen, has traveled to Houston
2 twice since her election in 2016, and during her most recent visit,
3 in August 2018, Taiwan's CPC Corporation signed a \$25 billion,
4 25-year purchase agreement for liquefied natural gas with
5 Houston-headquartered Cheniere and Formosa Plastics confirmed in
6 detail its \$12.7 billion accumulated investment at Point Comfort;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, In June 2015, Taiwan's EVA Air launched a direct
9 Taipei-Houston route; travel between Taiwan and the United States
10 has increased by more than 50 percent since 2012, when Taiwan
11 commenced participation in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program; it joined
12 the U.S. Global Entry program five years later, further enhancing
13 commercial, investment, and tourism opportunities; moreover, in
14 2018, President Trump signed the Taiwan Travel Act, which
15 encourages government officials to meet with their counterparts in
16 each other's countries; and

17 WHEREAS, Taiwan is committed to helping address global
18 challenges, from humanitarian crises to nontraditional security
19 threats; it has coordinated with the United States to combat Ebola
20 and other infectious diseases, and it has provided disaster relief
21 in many locations around the world; moreover, it has taken a
22 prominent role in environmental protection, and the U.S.-Taiwan
23 International Environmental Partnership was launched in 2014 to
24 collaborate in the training of experts in the field from Asia,
25 Africa, and Latin America; Taiwanese officials and civil society
26 groups partner with the United States on a range of issues through
27 the American Institute in Taiwan, and the AIT joined with the

1 U.S.-based Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to
2 establish the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, which
3 advances Taiwanese leadership in such arenas as democratization,
4 human rights, women's empowerment, and public health; and

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

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
11 Legislature hereby express its support for the strengthening of our
12 partnership with Taiwan and for the expansion of Taiwan's role on
13 the global stage; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives hereby:

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

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

22 (c) commend the inclusion of Taiwan in the U.S. Global Entry
23 and Visa Waiver Program;

24 (d) honor Peter Chen for his outstanding endeavors as
25 director general of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
26 Houston; and

27 (e) celebrate the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the

1 Taiwan Relations Act and the 31st anniversary of the sister-state
2 relationship between the State of Texas and Taiwan; and, be it
3 further

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