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By:  Sherman, Sr., Button, Vo, Jetton, Allen H.R. No. 186

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The longstanding bonds of friendship between the United States and Taiwan, embodied in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, continue to yield important economic, strategic, and cultural benefits; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan ranks as the United States' 10th largest trading partner, and in 2019, bilateral trade in goods reached $85.5 billion; the seventh-largest export market for U.S. agricultural products, Taiwan's biennial agricultural trade goodwill missions result in multibillion-dollar supply deals, and its annually dispatched delegations to the SelectUSA Investment Summit boost investment; Taiwan's recent action to lift restrictions on U.S. beef and pork beginning in January 2021 will help enhance bilateral trade; and

WHEREAS, The robust US-Taiwan trade and investment partnership provides a solid foundation for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement (BTA) to spur job creation, further expand the global market, and secure international supply chains; Taiwan is well positioned to play an important role in augmenting the revitalization of the global supply chain as part of the post-pandemic economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is committed to helping address global challenges, from humanitarian crises to nontraditional security threats; moreover, this year it has emerged as an important partner in pandemic prevention, providing 54 million surgical masks and other PPE to more than 80 countries around the world, including nearly 1 million surgical masks from the Taiwan government and Taiwan affiliated private groups to the State and cities of Texas; the Taiwan Model has achieved world renown for its effective pandemic prevention and containment, bolstering unprecedented international support for Taiwan's bid to participate in the World Health Assembly (WHA); and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese officials and civil society groups partner with the United States on a range of issues to promote our common values of freedom, democracy, and human rights; in March, Taiwan joined with the United States to establish the Partnership against Coronavirus, building on the cooperative tradition of prior joint partnerships such as the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), which advances Taiwanese leadership in such arenas as democratization, human rights, women's empowerment, and public health; and

WHEREAS, Since 1988, Texas and Taiwan have maintained a sister-state relationship, and they enjoy particularly close economic ties; Taiwanese firms have invested billions of dollars in a wide range of Texas businesses; Taiwan is Texas' 10th largest foreign market, and in 2019, it imported nearly $8.47 billion in commodities from Texas, including computers and electronics, industrial machinery equipment, chemicals, and foodstuffs; in turn, Texas imported over $3.66 billion in Taiwanese goods, primarily computers, electronics, metal products, transportation equipment, and industrial machinery; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of a Texas Trade and Investment Office in Taiwan could enhance the participation of small- and medium-sized enterprises in trade and investment, and advance the sister-state tie between Texas and Taiwan; and

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby express its support for the strengthening of our partnership with Taiwan and for the expansion of Taiwan's role on the global stage; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives hereby:

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

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

(c)  express support for a Texas Trade and Investment Office in Taiwan; and

(d)  celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act and the 33rd anniversary of the sister-state relationship between the State of Texas and Taiwan; and, be it further

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