- 1 HJR59
- 2 216484-2
- 3 By Representative McCutcheon
- 4 RFD: Rules
- 5 First Read: 10-FEB-22

1	216484-2:n:02/10/2022:SM/sm LSA2022-208R1
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8	COMMENDING TAIWAN FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED
9	STATES AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA.
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11	WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are
12	longstanding allies who both deeply cherish the common values
13	of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and
14	WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the
15	Taiwan Relations Act in 1979, the Taiwan Travel Act in 2018,
16	and the TAIPEI Act in 2019; and, in 2020, the United States
17	and Taiwan have enjoyed a high point in bilateral relations,
18	including through the highest-ranking official visits in 40
19	years and through the establishment of the U.STaiwan
20	Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue and the U.STaiwan
21	Educational Initiative, expanding economic exchanges and
22	promoting academic freedom in English and Mandarin language
23	instruction; and
24	WHEREAS, Taiwan is a beacon of democracy and freedom
25	in the Asia-Pacific, despite continuous threats from the
26	neighbor of China, which has encroached on Taiwan's security
27	by flying in Taiwan's air defense identification zone and

across the median line of the Taiwan Strait, as well as
degraded the freedom of Hong Kong through the 2020 Hong Kong
National Security Law; therefore, Taiwan's democracy needs to
be supported by like-minded allies, such as this
representative body; and

representative body; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Taiwan has achieved immense success combatting the COVID-19 pandemic and contributed extensive resources to helping the international community, including through the global donation of tens of millions of surgical and N95 masks, hundreds of thousands of isolation gowns, and tens of thousands of forehead thermometers; and including the donation of 90,000 surgical and 20,000 N95 masks to the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, beginning in January 2021, Taiwan will significantly ease import restrictions on United States pork and beef products, significantly growing the State of Alabama and the United States' agricultural exports to Taiwan and paving the way for deeper economic cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner; and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner. Taiwan supports an estimated 330,000 jobs in the United States; and Taiwan is the 23rd export market of Alabama, Alabama's 14th largest import country, investing \$327 million in Alabama, and supporting an estimated 5,401 jobs in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Alabama welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a

U.S.-Taiwan Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and the establishment of its trade office in Taiwan, to enhance the special sister-state relations since 1984 with Taiwan, to encourage further business, educational, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges between the citizens of both nations, and to recover better together in the post-pandemic economic recovery efforts; now therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the members of this body commend and support Taiwan's democracy, freedom, and the nation's meaningful participation in international organizations and cooperation, such as the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, INTERPOL, the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP); support the signing of a U.S.-Taiwan Bilateral Trade Agreement and an educational memorandum of understanding with Alabama promoting education through Mandarin and English study exchanges; and support a reciprocal driver license agreement between Taiwan and Alabama.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it supports the early start of negotiations on a U.S.-Taiwan Bilateral Trade

Agreement (BTA), establishing a trade office in Taiwan, as

Taiwanese companies are looking for diverse and free markets in the United States instead of China.

 $$\operatorname{\textsc{BE}}$ IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it urges Alabama and Taiwan to sign K-12 and higher education cooperation

Memorandum of Understanding aiming at Mandarin-English
language exchange programs, encouraging its officials and
members of the Legislature to conduct more exchanges with
their Taiwanese counterparts.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Governor, Secretary of State, and Mr. Elliot Yi-lung Wang, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.