

1 HJR99
2 218199-2
3 By Representative McCutcheon
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 24-FEB-22

COMMENDING TAIWAN FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are like-minded in that both deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has been experiencing continuous threats from the neighbor of China, which has encroached on Taiwan's security by flying in Taiwan's air defense identification zone, disseminating disinformation, launching cyber attacks, and repeatedly excluding Taiwan from the international system, as demonstrated through its denial of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the United States and Taiwan have experienced strengthening in bilateral relations; the State Department loosened restrictions on official contacts with Taiwan; both sides resumed the eleventh Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council meeting; the United States continues to approve its arms sales to Taiwan, demonstrating that the United States has always placed great importance on

1 Taiwan's defense capabilities; Taiwan and the United States,
2 along with Japan, welcomed Australia as the fourth official
3 partner of the Global Cooperation and Training Framework; most
4 recently, the United States included Taiwan in the 2021 Summit
5 for Democracy; and

6 WHEREAS, Taiwan has contributed extensive resources
7 to help the international community, including the United
8 States, to combat the COVID-19 pandemic through the global
9 donation of tens of million of surgical and N95 masks,
10 hundreds of thousands of isolation gowns, and tens of
11 thousands of thermometers, reciprocally, the United States has
12 donated 4 million doses of the Moderna vaccine to Taiwan; and

13 WHEREAS, Taiwan ranks as the second-freest country
14 in Asia, scoring 94 out of 100 and seventh in the world in
15 Freedom House's latest report on global freedom; and

16 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest
17 trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's
18 second-largest trading partner; Taiwan supports an estimated
19 330,000 jobs in the United States; Taiwan is the 15th largest
20 export market of Alabama, Alabama's 12th largest import
21 country, investing \$16 million to Alabama and supporting an
22 estimated 1,551 jobs in Alabama; recently, South Carolina, New
23 Mexico, Montana, and Pennsylvania have established trade
24 offices in Taiwan to attract more investments; and

25 WHEREAS, Alabama welcomes all opportunities for an
26 even closer partnership on business, educational, cultural,
27 and people-to-people exchanges between the citizens of both

1 nations, and to recover better together in the worldwide,
2 post-pandemic economic recovery efforts; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That it encourages the members of
5 this body to join the Southeastern State Legislative Taiwan
6 Caucus (SESTC), calling like-minded states and international
7 communities to support Taiwan's democracy, freedom, and the
8 nation's meaningful participation in international
9 organizations and cooperation, such as the World Health
10 Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization,
11 INTERPOL, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and
12 CPTPP.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it supports the early
14 start of negotiations on a US-Taiwan Bilateral Trade Agreement
15 (BTA), establishing a trade office in Taiwan, as Taiwanese
16 companies are looking for diverse and free markets in the U.S.
17 instead of China.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it urges Alabama and
19 Taiwan to sign K-12 and higher education cooperation MOUs
20 aiming at Mandarin-English language exchange programs,
21 encouraging its officials and members of Legislature to
22 conduct more exchanges with their Taiwanese counterparts.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House
24 of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an
25 appropriate copy of this resolution to Governor Kay Ivey,
26 Secretary of State John Merrill, and Mr. Elliot Wang,

1 Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
2 Atlanta.