HJR128

AJ63QQ7-1

By Representative Harbison

RFD: RULES

First Read: 21-Mar-24

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

WHEREAS, commending Taiwan for completing another successful presidential and legislative election on January 13th, 2024, and its continuous contribution to international society as a responsible stakeholder, even though Taiwan is under constant threat from China encroaching on Taiwan's security and employing non-peaceful means to undermine Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the landmark 45th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which has facilitated an even closer partnership on security, business, education, culture, and people-to-people exchanges between the U.S. and Taiwan; in 2023, Taiwan has welcomed the largest number of U.S. official delegations ever; and

WHEREAS, China repeatedly excludes Taiwan from the United Nations System by constant distortion of UN Resolution 2758 (XXVI), as the resolution did not address the issue of representation of Taiwan and its people in the United Nations or any related organizations, nor did the resolution take a position on the relations between China and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest

trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner, with an estimated $160 billion trade amount in 2022; in June 2023, the U.S. and Taiwan signed the first agreement under the U.S. - Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade covering customs and border procedures, regulatory practices, and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Alabama became the second state to sign a K-12 and higher education cooperation MOU with Taiwan in 2022 since the launch of the 2020 U.S. - Taiwan Education Initiative, facilitating abundant Mandarin and English language classes and student-teacher exchanges, resulting in the establishment of the Taiwan Center of Chinese Language and Culture at Auburn University; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body supports the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade and a U.S.-Taiwan Avoid Double Taxation Agreement as Taiwanese companies are looking for a diverse and free market in the U.S. instead of China; and encourages the state government of Alabama to establish a trade office in Taiwan, as North Carolina, South Carolina, Arizona, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania have recently done, to attract more investments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That with the celebration of the 45th anniversary of the TRA to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to Taiwan, this body supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations and economic cooperation such as WHO, UNFCCC, ICAO, INTERPOL, CPTPP, and

IPEF; encourages Alabamians to take part in activities and experiences and promoting Taiwan's cultures, cuisine, and tourism; and encourages the Alabama Congressional Delegation to join the Congressional Taiwan Caucus for exploring more collaboration opportunities with Taiwan.

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to Governor Kay Ivey, Secretary of State Wes Allen, the Alabama Congressional Delegation, and Mr. Elliot Wang, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.