HJR247

213453-2

By Representative McCutcheon

RFD: Rules

First Read: 27-APR-21
COMMENDING TAIWAN FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979, the Taiwan Travel Act in 2018, and the TAIPEI Act in 2019; and, in 2020, the United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a high point in bilateral relations, including through the highest-ranking official visits in 40 years and through the establishment of the U.S.-Taiwan Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue and the U.S.-Taiwan Educational Initiative, expanding economic exchanges and promoting academic freedom in English and Mandarin language instruction; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a beacon of democracy and freedom in the Asia-Pacific, despite continuous threats from its neighbor, China, which has encroached on Taiwan's security 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

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 U.S.'s 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,

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 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.