

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 280

Reps. Jaime Greene and Morgan offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to express our commitment to strengthening and
2 deepening ties between the state of Michigan and Taiwan.

3 Whereas, Taiwan shares values of freedom, democracy, human
4 rights, rule of law, peace, and prosperity with the United States
5 and the state of Michigan; and

6 Whereas, Taiwan and the United States are key partners in
7 trade. The United States ranks as Taiwan's second-largest trading
8 partner, and in 2022, Taiwan was the United States' ninth-largest
9 goods trading partner. Bilateral trade in goods and services
10 reached nearly 160 billion dollars that year; and

11 Whereas, Taiwan is a particularly important market for United
12 States agricultural products. Taiwan imported 4.4 billion dollars'
13 worth of United States farm products in 2022, making it the sixth-

1 largest export market for United States food and agricultural
2 products. In 2023, Taiwan was our nation's sixth-largest export
3 market for soybeans and our eighth-largest export market for corn,
4 individually. This is particularly impressive when considered on a
5 per capita basis, as Taiwan has a relatively small population
6 compared to most of our large agricultural export markets. Due to
7 our nation's high-quality produce, the United States remains one of
8 Taiwan's largest sources of agricultural products, supplying more
9 than one-fifth of Taiwan's agricultural imports in 2022; and

10 Whereas, Taiwan and the state of Michigan have enjoyed a long
11 and mutually beneficial relationship. Michigan has a vibrant
12 Taiwanese American community that has enriched the state's culture,
13 cuisine, and commerce for decades. Taiwan was Michigan's tenth-
14 largest export market in Asia in 2023, with over 247 million
15 dollars' worth of Michigan goods exported to Taiwan that year. In
16 early March 2024, the state of Michigan opened the Michigan Taiwan
17 Office to promote further investment by Taiwanese firms in our
18 state. There is great potential for future growth if we continue to
19 deepen our ties with Taiwan; and

20 Whereas, In conducting business with Taiwan, Michigan
21 businesses should refer to Taiwan as "Taiwan." In 1979, the United
22 States enacted the Taiwan Relations Act to provide for the
23 continuation of relations between the people of the United States
24 and the people on the island of Taiwan. Section 4(b)(1) of the act
25 provides: "Whenever the laws of the United States refer or relate
26 to foreign countries, nations, states, governments, or similar
27 entities, such terms shall include and such laws shall apply with
28 respect to Taiwan." Thus, it is legitimate for Michigan businesses
29 to refer to Taiwan as "Taiwan" when conducting business and

1 establishing ties with Taiwan; and

2 Whereas, The United States is actively taking steps to
3 strengthen bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan. On
4 June 1, 2023, representatives of the American Institute in Taiwan
5 and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the
6 United States signed a bilateral trade agreement under the U.S.-
7 Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade, and Congress enacted
8 legislation to approve and implement that agreement in August 2023.
9 Negotiations regarding a second agreement are ongoing. While this
10 progress is encouraging, an avoidance of double taxation agreement
11 for Taiwan has not yet been enacted, and Taiwan remains excluded
12 from the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity. The United
13 States could take further action to encourage bilateral investment
14 and technical collaboration through tariff reduction and other
15 trade facilitation measures; and

16 Whereas, Taiwan has undertaken a policy of "steadfast
17 diplomacy" in its foreign relations, prioritizing mutual assistance
18 and robust relationships with governments that share common values.
19 Taiwan is capable of, and willing to, fulfill its responsibilities
20 and collaborate with the world to deal with the challenges of
21 humanitarian aid and disease control; now, therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we express our
23 commitment to the strengthening and deepening of ties between the
24 state of Michigan and Taiwan; and be it further

25 Resolved, That we urge all enterprises in Michigan to refer to
26 Taiwan as "Taiwan," consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act; and
27 be it further

28 Resolved, That we urge the United States and Taiwan to enter
29 into additional bilateral trade agreements and an avoidance of

1 double taxation agreement; and be it further

2 Resolved, That we support the inclusion of Taiwan in the Indo-
3 Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity; and be it further

4 Resolved, That we support Taiwan's meaningful participation in
5 international organizations, such as the United Nations, the World
6 Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization,
7 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the
8 International Criminal Police Organization, which impact the
9 health, safety, and well-being of the people of Taiwan; and be it
10 further

11 Resolved, That we support Taiwan's aspiration to make more
12 contributions in international societies; and be it further

13 Resolved, That we support Taiwan in its efforts to increase
14 its international profile.