

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 56

Favoring strong support by the United States Government for the accession of Taiwan to the World Trade Organization prior to the admission of the People's Republic of China to that Organization.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 1997

Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. COX of California, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Favoring strong support by the United States Government for the accession of Taiwan to the World Trade Organization prior to the admission of the People's Republic of China to that Organization.

Whereas the people of the United States and the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan have long enjoyed extensive ties;

Whereas Taiwan is currently the 8th largest trading partner of the United States, and exports from the United States to Taiwan total more than \$18,000,000,000 annually, nearly twice as much as United States exports to the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the executive branch has committed publicly to support Taiwan's bid to join the World Trade Organization and has declared that the United States will not oppose this bid solely on the grounds that the People's Republic of China, which also seeks membership in the World Trade Organization, is not yet eligible because of its unacceptable trade practices;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have concluded discussions on a variety of outstanding trade issues that remain unresolved with the People's Republic of China and that are necessary for the United States to support Taiwan's membership in the World Trade Organization;

Whereas the reversion of control over Hong Kong—a member of the World Trade Organization—to the People's Republic of China, scheduled by treaty to occur on July 1, 1997, will, in many respects, afford to the People's Republic of China the practical benefit of membership in the World Trade Organization for the substantial portion of its trade in goods—despite the fact that the trade practices of the People's Republic of China currently fall far short of qualifying for membership in the World Trade Organization;

Whereas, while the executive branch has announced its interest in the admission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization, the fundamental sense of fairness of the people of the United States warrants the United States Government's support for Taiwan's relatively more meritorious application for membership in the World Trade Organization;

Whereas the World Trade Organization specifically provides that membership in the World Trade Organization does not confer statehood status, but rather membership can

also be extended for a regional economy as will be the case for Hong Kong after July 1, 1997; and

Whereas it is in the economic interests of United States consumers and exporters for Taiwan to complete the requirements for accession to the World Trade Organization at the earliest possible moment: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That the Congress favors public support by
 3 the United States Government for the accession of Taiwan
 4 to the World Trade Organization prior to the admission
 5 of the People's Republic of China to that Organization.

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