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S. CON. RES. 15

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States support the accession of Taiwan to the World Trade Organization.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 20, 1997

Mr. TORRICELLI submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States support the accession of Taiwan to the World Trade Organization.

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

Whereas Taiwan, a democracy of 21,000,000 people, is currently the eighth largest trading partner of the United States, and United States exports to Taiwan total more than \$18,000,000,000 annually, far exceeding the \$12,000,000,000 the United States exports to the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the current administration has committed publicly to support Taiwan's bid to join the World Trade Organization (referred to in this resolution as the "WTO") and has declared that the United States will not oppose that

bid solely on the grounds that the People's Republic of China, which also seeks WTO membership, is not yet eligible because of the People's Republic of China's unacceptable trade practices;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have concluded discussions on virtually all outstanding trade issues necessary for Taiwan to be eligible to join the WTO;

Whereas reversion of control over Hong Kong to Beijing, scheduled to occur on July 1, 1997, will, in most respects, afford the People's Republic of China WTO treatment for the bulk of its trade goods, despite the fact that the People's Republic of China's trade practices currently fall far short of qualifying for WTO membership;

Whereas the American people's fundamental sense of fairness warrants support by the United States Government for Taiwan's bid for WTO membership; and

Whereas it is in the economic interests of United States consumers and exporters for Taiwan to accede to the WTO at the earliest possible moment: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that negotia-
 3 tions between the United States and Taiwan be concluded
 4 promptly and that the United States Government publicly
 5 support the prompt accession of Taiwan to the WTO.

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