ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 39

By: Myers, Cain and Fisher of the Senate

and

Newport of the House

A Concurrent Resolution commending the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its close ties with the State of Oklahoma; calling for enactment of a free trade agreement between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan); and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma has a strong and vibrant economic relationship with the Republic of China (Taiwan). In 2004, Oklahoma exported $19.42 million to Taiwan, which grew by 95.65% compared with the previous year. This makes Taiwan the 26th largest market for Oklahoma products. The agriculture and manufacturing sectors of the Oklahoma economy, most notably the computer and electronic products, chemicals, and machinery industries, would benefit significantly if the United States enacted a free trade agreement with Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan would substantially reduce or eliminate most import quotas, duties, and other trade barriers and expand market opportunities for manufactured goods and agricultural products from Oklahoma and the entire United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States has completed or is in the process of negotiating free trade agreements with several countries and regions. Reasons for pursuing a free trade agreement with Taiwan include its status as the United States' eighth-largest trading partner and the sixth-most-important destination of United States agricultural exports, its robust economy, and its long-standing educational and cultural ties with the United States; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan was admitted to the World Trade Organization on January 1, 2001. A free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan would extend the coverage of World Trade Organization agreements to products, sectors, and conditions of trade not adequately covered. It would also provide a platform to address issues such as Taiwan's 15.2% average tariff rate on agricultural imports from the United States; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 107-210, the Trade Act of 2002, gives the President the authority to enter into trade agreements with foreign countries whenever the President determines that one or more existing duties or other import restrictions of any foreign country

or the United States are unduly burdening and restricting the foreign trade of the United States; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush, speaking before the historic signing of the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement in 2004, emphasized that he supports free and open trade because, "it has the power to create new wealth for whole nations and new opportunities for millions of people", and it has "a record of creating jobs, raising living standards, and lowering consumer prices."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commends the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its close economic and business ties with the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature encourages the President of the United States to extend the benefits of free trade by enacting a free trade agreement between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan), provided that the current outstanding trade agreement issues between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) are resolved.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and to all members of the Oklahoma congressional delegation.

Adopted by the Senate the 14th day of February, 2006.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 25th day of April, 2006.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives