



2023 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 126

February 16, 2024 - Introduced by Representatives KITCHENS, AUGUST, PLUMER, TRANEL, BILLINGS, MCGUIRE, ALLEN, ARMSTRONG, BEHNKE, BINSFELD, CALLAHAN, DITTRICH, EDMING, JACOBSON, KRUG, MAGNAFICI, O'CONNOR, ORTIZ-VELEZ, PENTERMAN, RETTINGER, SCHMIDT, SCHUTT, SWEARINGEN, TITTL and WITTKE, cosponsored by Senators TESTIN, JACQUE, ROYS and LARSON. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: reaffirming Wisconsin's commitment to the strengthening and deepening of the sister ties between the State of Wisconsin and Taiwan; reaffirming Wisconsin's support of the Taiwan Relations Act; supporting Taiwan's signing of a Bilateral Trade Agreement with the United States; and continuing support for increasing Taiwan's international profile.

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin established in 1986 the sister-state relationship with Taiwan Province, Republic of China (Taiwan), and Wisconsin and Taiwan have enjoyed strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural exchanges, and tourism; and

Whereas, Taiwan shares the same values of freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, peace, and prosperity with the United States and the State of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, in 2022, the United States ranked as Taiwan's second-largest

trading partner, Taiwan ranked as the ninth-largest trading partner of the United States, and bilateral trade reached an estimated \$160 billion; and

Whereas, Taiwan imported nearly \$4.4 billion worth of U.S. farm products in 2022, making it the seventh-largest market for U.S. agricultural products overall, the fourth-largest market on a per capita basis, and the seventh-largest market for U.S. soybeans and corn; and

Whereas, due to its high quality produce, the U.S. remains one of Taiwan's largest sources of agricultural products, supplying more than one-fifth of the country's major agricultural imports; and

Whereas, Taiwan and the State of Wisconsin have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the prospect of future growth, and Taiwan was Wisconsin's sixth-largest export market in Asia in 2022, with \$307 million worth of Wisconsin goods exported to Taiwan; and

Whereas, to strengthen the Taiwan-Wisconsin bilateral economic relationship, it is essential to support Wisconsin businesses to enhance their economic engagement with Taiwan based on the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act (P.L. 96-8, 22 U.S.C. 3301); section 4, subsection (b), of the act stipulates that "[w]henver the laws of the United States refer or relate to foreign countries, nations, states, governments, or similar entities, such terms shall include and such laws shall apply with respect to Taiwan"; and

Whereas, negotiations for a Bilateral Trade Agreement between Taiwan and the United States is an important step toward further strengthening bilateral trade between our countries, thereby increasing Wisconsin's exports to Taiwan and

creating bilateral investment and technical collaboration through tariff reduction and other trade facilitation measures; and

Whereas, Taiwan has undertaken a policy of “steadfast diplomacy” in its international relations and Taiwan is capable of, and willing to, fulfill its responsibilities and to collaborate with the world to face challenges such as humanitarian aid and disease control; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin Legislature reaffirms its commitment to the strengthening and deepening of the sister ties between the State of Wisconsin and Taiwan; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Wisconsin Legislature reaffirms its support for the Taiwan Relations Act; and, be it further

Resolved, That Wisconsin endorses Taiwan’s efforts to secure the signing of a Bilateral Trade Agreement with the United States, and reiterates its support for a closer economic and trade partnership between the State of Wisconsin and Taiwan; and, be it further

Resolved, That Wisconsin continues to support Taiwan’s appropriate participation in international organizations that impact the health, safety, and well-being of the people of Taiwan and supports Taiwan’s aspiration to make more contributions in international societies; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the assembly is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago.

(END)