

By: Representatives Compretta, Dedeaux,
Zuber

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
2 (TAIWAN) FOR ITS CLOSE ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS TIES WITH THE STATE
3 OF MISSISSIPPI AND TO URGE AND REQUEST THE PRESIDENT TO DIRECT THE
4 UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE TO NEGOTIATE A FREE TRADE
5 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN.

6 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has a strong and vibrant
7 economic relationship with Taiwan; and

8 WHEREAS, other states in the region, such as Texas, Arkansas,
9 Louisiana and Oklahoma, also have an economic interest in a free
10 trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan; and

11 WHEREAS, the agriculture and manufacturing sectors of the
12 Mississippi economy, most notably the computer and electronic
13 products, chemicals, and machine industries, would benefit
14 significantly if the United States entered into a free trade
15 agreement with Taiwan; and

16 WHEREAS, a free trade agreement between the United States and
17 Taiwan would substantially reduce or eliminate most import quotas,
18 duties, and other trade barriers, expanding market opportunities
19 for manufactured goods and agricultural products from Mississippi
20 and the entire United States; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States has completed or is in the process
22 of negotiating free trade agreements with several countries and
23 regions; and

24 WHEREAS, a free trade agreement with Taiwan is appropriate:
25 Taiwan is already the United States' eighth largest trading
26 partner and the sixth most important destination of United States
27 agricultural exports; Taiwan's economy is thriving and robust; and

28 Taiwan maintains long-standing educational and cultural ties with
29 the United States; and

30 WHEREAS, Taiwan was admitted to the World Trade Organization
31 (WTO) on January 1, 2001, and a free trade agreement between the
32 United States and Taiwan would extend the coverage of WTO
33 agreements to products, sectors, and conditions of trade not
34 adequately covered, as well as providing a platform to address
35 issues such as Taiwan's tariff rate on agricultural imports from
36 the United States, which currently averages over 15%; and

37 WHEREAS, Public Law 107-210, the Trade Act of 2002, gives the
38 President the authority to enter into trade agreements with
39 foreign countries whenever the President determines that one or
40 more existing duties or other import restrictions of any foreign
41 country or the United States are unduly burdening and restricting
42 the foreign trade of the United States; and

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

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
51 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
52 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the Republic of China (Taiwan)
53 for its close economic and business ties with the State of
54 Mississippi and respectfully urge and request that the President
55 of the United States extend the benefits of free trade by
56 directing the United States Trade Representative to negotiate a
57 free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
59 furnished to the President of the United States, the United States

60 Trade Representative, the members of the Mississippi congressional
61 delegation and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.