

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.