
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4010

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Ericksen, Bailey, Rodne, McDonald, Ahern, Hinkle, Haler, Strow and Santos

Read first time 01/31/2007. Referred to Committee on Community & Economic Development & Trade.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Both Washington and Taiwan share close economic and
9 commercial connections; and

10 WHEREAS, Washington's main industries include aerospace,
11 information technology sector, agriculture, and services with Taiwan as
12 an essential market for Washington's products and services; and

13 WHEREAS, Leading exports to Taiwan included transportation
14 equipment, information technology products, machinery, plastics, food,
15 and agricultural products; and

16 WHEREAS, International trade is crucial to Washington's economic
17 development with foreign trade creating 50% of the jobs in this state
18 over the past 30 years and there is still much room for further growth;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, In 2005, Taiwan was Washington's 4th largest export market
2 with exports to Taiwan valued at \$3.12 billion; and

3 WHEREAS, Statistics show that Washington's exports to Taiwan have
4 been gradually increasing in recent years with companies from
5 Washington, such as Costco Wholesale, Microsoft, and Starbucks having
6 invested in Taiwan, while Taiwan's TSMC having also invested in
7 Washington; and

8 WHEREAS, Based on the close economic ties, if the Taiwan-U.S. Free
9 Trade Agreement (TUFTA) is signed, tariff reductions and greater trade
10 facilitation will provide the state with significantly improved
11 opportunities for increasing exports to Taiwan and developing
12 industries in Washington; and

13 WHEREAS, Products from Washington's leading industries are in high
14 demand in Taiwan and this demand will only intensify under TUFTA, as
15 tariff rates on most agricultural and industrial products would drop to
16 zero immediately; and

17 WHEREAS, Taiwan enjoys an advantageous geographic position in East
18 Asia and Taiwanese businessmen have valuable experiences and market
19 channels in the great China market; and

20 WHEREAS, In addition, incentives and advantages from the TUFTA
21 would help companies in Washington use Taiwan as a springboard for
22 penetrating other Asian markets; and

23 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been pushing for the signing of TUFTA in the
24 hope of strengthening economic ties between the U.S. and Taiwan,
25 including expanding business opportunities for Washington; and

26 WHEREAS, As of August 2006, the TUFTA proposal has been endorsed by
27 28 states, the Council of State Governments, and other pertinent
28 organizations;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully urge that the
30 President of the United States and Congress work together to enact the
31 Taiwan-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (TUFTA) at the earliest date possible.

32 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
33 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
34 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
35 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
36 Washington.

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