

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2003

Source
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Legislative
Resolve No.
29



Urging the United States Congress to support the granting of official Observer Status to the Republic of China at the World Health Assembly Annual Conference to be held at Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2003, and to support negotiation of a free trade agreement with the Republic of China.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the United States, including the State of Alaska, and the Republic of China, in Taiwan, have long been valued and close partners in trade and cultural exchanges; and

WHEREAS the Republic of China is the eighth largest trading partner of the United States and is a significant trading partner of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the Republic of China is showing signs of significant potential for increasing trade with the United States and the State of Alaska as the world economy continues to recover from recession; and

WHEREAS free trade among the peoples of the world is of vital importance to the United States, including the citizens of Alaska, and to the Republic of China; and

WHEREAS the importance of free trade is strongly acknowledged in Alaska; the Municipality of Anchorage and the City of Taipei having signed a Partner Cities Agreement to encourage trade and cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS the United States and the Republic of China have, for decades, been willing signers of mutual defense treaties; and

WHEREAS the health of the peoples of the world is of vital importance to the United States, including the citizens of Alaska, and to the Republic of China; and

WHEREAS the people of the United States and the Republic of China have generously contributed to programs that benefit the health of the peoples of the world; and

WHEREAS it would be mutually beneficial to the people of the United States, including Alaska, and the people of the Republic of China to both assist and realize a continuation of international efforts the goal of which is to expand and further develop health-related knowledge; and

WHEREAS today there is a strong need for the rapid and complete international dissemination of health-medical information and research results in view of the recent outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), considered to be a worldwide health threat;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United States Congress to authorize the United States to endorse the request by the Republic of China to be granted Observer Status at the World Health Assembly Annual Conference in May 2003 at Geneva, Switzerland; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to encourage the administration of President George W. Bush to negotiate a free trade agreement with the Republic of China.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Chen Shui-bian, President of the Republic of China; the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Colin Powell, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Tommy Thompson, United States Secretary of Health and Human Services; the World Health Assembly; the World Health Organization; Jack K. C. Chiang, Director General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, 2001 Sixth Avenue, Suite 2410, Seattle, WA 98121; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don

Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.