

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4—Committee on  
Elections, Procedures, and Ethics

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the President of the United States and Congress to support a free trade agreement between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the United States.

WHEREAS, It is our belief that it is the responsibility of the United States to promote the values of freedom, democracy, and a commitment to open markets and the free exchange of both goods and ideas both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China on Taiwan shares these values with the United States and has struggled throughout the past 50 years to create what is today an open and thriving democracy; and

WHEREAS, The United States must continue to support the growth of democracy and ongoing market opening in Taiwan if this relationship is to evolve and reflect the changing nature of the global system in the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, Despite the fact that Taiwan only recently became a member of the World Trade Organization and that it has no formal trade agreement with the United States, Taiwan has nevertheless emerged as the United States' eighth largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, American businesses and workers have benefited greatly from this dynamic trade relationship, most recently in the computer and electronics sector; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a gateway to other Pacific Rim markets for United States exports, helping to preserve peace and stability within the entire region; and

WHEREAS, United States agricultural products have been particularly underrepresented in the list of United States exports to the region despite the importance of the market for growers of corn, wheat and soybeans; and

WHEREAS, A free trade agreement would not only help Taiwan's economy dramatically expand its already growing entrepreneurial class, but it would also serve an important political function; and

WHEREAS, The United States needs to support partner countries that are lowering trade barriers; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has emerged over the past two decades as one of the United States' most important allies in Asia and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, In the interest of supporting, preserving and protecting the democratic fabric of the government of the Republic

of China on Taiwan, it is made clear that the United States supports the withdrawal of missiles deployed as a threat against Taiwan by the People's Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has forged an open, market-based economy and a thriving democracy based on free elections and the freedom of dissent; and

WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the United States to encourage the development of both these institutions; and

WHEREAS, The United States has an obligation to its allies and to its own citizens to encourage economic growth, market opening, and the destruction of trade barriers as a means of raising living standards across the board; and

WHEREAS, A free trade agreement with Taiwan would be a positive step toward accomplishing all of these goals; and

WHEREAS, The United States should also support the entry of Taiwan into the World Health Organization, the United Nations and other relevant international organizations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge President George W. Bush and Congress to support a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan; and be it further

RESOLVED, That United States policy should include the pursuit of some initiative in the World Trade Organization that will give Taiwan meaningful participation in a manner that is consistent with the organization's requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the Senate, the Government of Taiwan, the World Trade Organization and the members of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.