

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 49

Senators Webber, Chang, Bellino, Lauwers and Moss offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to condemn the coercive actions of the People's
2 Republic of China towards Taiwan from April 8 to 10, 2023, to
3 support Taiwan's sovereignty, and to urge the People's Republic of
4 China to de-escalate the situation.

5 Whereas, Taiwan is a self-governing democracy and a key
6 partner of the United States. However, Taiwan's sovereignty is
7 often threatened by the People's Republic of China (PRC), which has
8 repeatedly expressed its intent to absorb Taiwan. The United States
9 balances relations with Taiwan and the PRC through its "one-China"
10 policy, under which the United States opposes any unilateral
11 changes to the status quo between Taiwan and the PRC and supports
12 the peaceful resolution of any differences across the Taiwan

1 Strait, as stated in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979; and

2 Whereas, In March and April 2023, in accordance with
3 longstanding practice, the Taiwanese President met with members of
4 the United States Congress during two transit stops in the United
5 States. At the end of March, Taiwan's President met with the United
6 States House Minority Leader and members of the United States
7 Senate Armed Services Committee in New York, and in early April,
8 she met with the Speaker of the United States House of
9 Representatives and other members of the United States Congress in
10 California. These meetings took place while the Taiwanese President
11 was traveling to and from Central America to meet with Taiwan's
12 allies; and

13 Whereas, In response to these meetings, from April 8 to 10,
14 2023, the PRC conducted three days of large-scale combat exercises
15 around Taiwan, including a simulated blockade of the island. A
16 naval standoff between Taiwan and the PRC took place at the median
17 line of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial boundary between their
18 territories, and dozens of planes crossed this line during the
19 PRC's drills. Taiwan reports over 200 flights by PRC warplanes over
20 the weekend. Many of these aircraft practiced taking off from the
21 *Shandong*, a PRC aircraft carrier that was participating in military
22 exercises near Taiwan for the first time. The *Shandong* could be
23 used to prevent foreign military forces from coming to Taiwan's aid
24 in the event of a military crisis across the Taiwan Strait or in
25 reaction to perceived foreign interference. At the conclusion of
26 these exercises, the PRC's military declared that it is "ready to
27 fight," a significant escalation in the country's rhetoric
28 regarding its intent to use force against Taiwan; and

29 Whereas, These military actions constitute a serious

1 overreaction to the transit stops by Taiwan's President in the
2 United States. The current Taiwanese President has transited
3 through the United States on six other occasions since she took
4 office; these visits are far from unusual and do not signal a
5 change in United States foreign policy. Taiwan has reacted calmly
6 to the PRC's military exercises, monitoring the activity but
7 stating that it does not intend to escalate the conflict. There is
8 simply no need for the PRC to fan the flames of conflict. These
9 kinds of antagonistic actions create unnecessary fear and anxiety,
10 and they can be actively harmful to the instigator's economy. A war
11 over Taiwan would significantly disrupt global trade among leading
12 economies, which would dampen Michigan's economy as well; in 2022,
13 Taiwan was our state's tenth-largest goods export market in Asia.
14 It is in everyone's best interest to avoid a conflict between the
15 PRC and Taiwan; now, therefore, be it

16 Resolved by the Senate, That we condemn the coercive actions
17 of the People's Republic of China towards Taiwan from April 8 to
18 10, 2023; and be it further

19 Resolved, That we support Taiwan's sovereignty over its own
20 territory; and be it further

21 Resolved, That we urge the People's Republic of China to de-
22 escalate its rhetoric regarding an invasion of Taiwan and to
23 refrain from threatening an invasion by conducting military drills;
24 and be it further

25 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
26 United States Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, the
27 Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, the People's Republic
28 of China Ambassador to the United States, the Taipei Economic and
29 Cultural Representative to the United States, and the members of

1 the Michigan congressional delegation.