

[As Amended by House Committee of the Whole]

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2006

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1624

By Senators Steineger and D. Schmidt

3-9

12 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION supporting a ~~Taiwan-United States~~  
13 ~~free trade agreement~~ **continued, mutually beneficial trade be-**  
14 ~~tween Taiwan and the United States.~~ [a Taiwan, Japan and other  
15 **nations of Southeast Asia-United States free trade agreement,**  
16 **and urging the United States Department of Agriculture to**  
17 **grant companies the necessary permission to test 100% of their**  
18 **animals to meet market demand.]**

19  
20 **[WHEREAS, Trade between Taiwan, Japan and other nations**  
21 **of Southeast Asia and the United States is essential to the economic**  
22 **well-being of all nations; and**

23 **[WHEREAS, All available efforts to open, sustain and expand**  
24 **trade with Taiwan, Japan and other nations of Southeast Asia are**  
25 **encouraged and will result in growth of the Kansas economy and**  
26 **provide enormous economic opportunities to the citizens of Kan-**  
27 **sas; and]**

28 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States enjoy one of the most im-  
29 portant economic and strategic international relationships; and

30 WHEREAS, Together, Taiwan and the United States promote a  
31 shared faith and respect for freedom, democracy and free market prin-  
32 ciples; and

33 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States have worked hand-in-hand  
34 to preserve peace and stability within the Asia-Pacific region and to help  
35 improve the lives of their citizens and people around the world; and

36 WHEREAS, Trade between Taiwan and the United States has in-  
37 creased significantly during the past decades, with the United States being  
38 Taiwan's second largest source of imports and Taiwan being the eighth  
39 largest trading partner of the United States; and

40 WHEREAS, Taiwan is a major trading partner with the United States  
41 and also an important overseas market for United States agricultural prod-  
42 ucts, and given the remarkable economic performance of Taiwan and the  
43 strong purchasing power of its 23 million people, there are many oppor-

1 tunities to further expand bilateral trade between the United States and  
2 Taiwan, ~~and~~; **and**]

3 ~~—WHEREAS, Streamlined foreign investment procedures developed~~  
4 ~~under a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement would lead to further~~  
5 ~~investment by firms in both Taiwan and the United States and would~~  
6 ~~create new business opportunities and new jobs; and~~

7 ~~—WHEREAS, A Taiwan-United States free trade agreement would en-~~  
8 ~~courage greater innovations and manufacturing efficiencies by stimulating~~  
9 ~~joint technological development, practical applications and new cooper-~~  
10 ~~ative ventures; and~~

11 ~~—WHEREAS, A recent study by the United States International Trade~~  
12 ~~Commission supports the negotiation of a Taiwan-United States free~~  
13 ~~trade agreement to further boost trade between the two countries and~~  
14 ~~serve the broader interests of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region.~~

15 **[WHEREAS, Streamlined foreign investment procedures de-**  
16 **veloped under a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement would**  
17 **lead to further investment by firms in both Taiwan and the United**  
18 **States and would create new business opportunities and new jobs;**  
19 **and**

20 **[WHEREAS, A Taiwan-United States free trade agreement**  
21 **would encourage greater innovations and manufacturing efficien-**  
22 **cies by stimulating joint technological development, practical ap-**  
23 **plications and new cooperative ventures; and**

24 **[WHEREAS, A recent study by the United States International**  
25 **Trade Commission supports the negotiation of a Taiwan-United**  
26 **States free trade agreement to further boost trade between the**  
27 **two countries and serve the broader interests of the United States**  
28 **in the Asia-Pacific region; and]**

29 **[WHEREAS, The closure of export markets for American beef**  
30 **at the end of 2003 has cost the U.S. economy an estimated \$3.3**  
31 **billion a year; and**

32 **[WHEREAS, Many countries which have shut their borders to**  
33 **American beef are demanding significantly increased testing and**  
34 **in some cases, demanding the testing of all animals; and**

35 **[WHEREAS, Creekstone Farms, a Kansas beef packing com-**  
36 **pany which normally exports 20% of its beef to Japan, which has**  
37 **banned all imports of untested beef, is losing approximately**  
38 **\$200,000 a day; and**

39 **[WHEREAS, In response, Creekstone Farms has spent over**  
40 **\$500,000 to build a laboratory and hired scientists, to test over**  
41 **300,000 of its own animals to regain its lost market; and**

42 **[WHEREAS, A basic tenet of the American way and a free mar-**  
43 **ket economy is the producer supplying what the consumer is de-**

1 manding; and

2 [WHEREAS, For the U.S. regulatory agency with responsibility  
3 to ensure the safety of American beef products to give permission  
4 to relax testing standards would be unacceptable, but to not give  
5 a company the authority to exceed such standards is nonsensical  
6 in light of this difficult time for American beef producers; and

7 [WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Kansas does not  
8 dispute the USDA contention that 100% testing for BSE is not nec-  
9 essary for protecting health and should not be mandatory; and

10 [WHEREAS, To deny a small specialty firm the right to volun-  
11 tarily test all its animals to meet the legitimate demands of one of  
12 its best customers is inappropriate, especially with regard to cur-  
13 rent market conditions; and

14 [WHEREAS, The USDA should not ban contractual agreements  
15 between a willing buyer and a willing seller when such agreements  
16 do not hurt consumers and help the American economy; and

17 [WHEREAS, Significant opportunities for trade with Taiwan,  
18 Japan and other nations of Southeast Asia exist and the develop-  
19 ment of all opportunities to open, sustain and expand such trade  
20 is beneficial to Kansas:] Now, therefore,

21 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*  
22 *resentatives concurring therein:* That the Kansas Legislature supports  
23 ~~the negotiation of a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement **contin-**~~  
24 ~~**ued, mutually beneficial trade between Taiwan**, Japan and other~~  
25 ~~**nations in Southeast Asia] and the United States**], and urging the~~  
26 **United States Department of Agriculture to allow Creekstone**  
27 **Farms and other beef producers to test 100% of its beef for BSE**  
28 **to satisfy its customers and open markets for American beef] [the**  
29 **negotiation of a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement]; and**

30 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed  
31 to send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the United  
32 States, the United States Secretary of State, the United States Secretary  
33 of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative and to each mem-  
34 ber of the Kansas Congressional Delegation.