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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8200
March 2, 1990

VANDA S. MONTAGNY, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
ED MURALEE, MINORITY CHIEF OF STAFF

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in support of Taiwan's January 1, 1990 application for membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and urge you to commit the full support of the United States to this effort.

Membership for Taiwan in GATT follows naturally and logically from Taiwan's achievement of significant economic status around the world. Taiwan has become a major player as our fifth largest trading partner and the thirteenth largest trading entity in the world. Its foreign exchange reserves rank second in the world and its citizens enjoy an impressively high standard of living. The U.S. should take this unique opportunity to further its own international trade interests and those of the GATT institution by supporting Taiwan's application.

We understand that Taiwan is fully prepared to assume the international responsibilities and obligations of a GATT member. It has taken important trade-liberalization steps, including improvement of intellectual property protection and significant tariff reductions. Taiwan is applying as a "developed" country, under the name of the "Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu." This clearly limits the application to those areas over which Taiwan has autonomy in the conduct of foreign trade.

We urge you to support the creation of a GATT Working Group and to request that the GATT Secretariat place Taiwan's accession request on the agenda of the next GATT Council meeting. This is an essential first step in our effort to help Taiwan assume its deserved place in the international trade community.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Bentsen

Bob Packwood

W. D. Brown

David Brown

Steve Symms

Bill Anshutz

Max Baucus

Ben Ray

Bob Dole

George Mitchell

Bill Bradley

Jack Warner

Al Dinkins

Don Riegle

John H. Chafee

John D. Rockefeller

Frank Lautenberg

Carl Albert

Jim Schemm

Tom Harkin