

Chairman Moolenaar Remarks
Global Taiwan Institute Annual Symposium
10.16.24

Good morning, I am Congressman John Moolenaar. As Chairman of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, I am grateful for the opportunity to help kick off this year's Global Taiwan Institute Annual Symposium.

For many decades, the United States and Taiwan have forged a strong partnership based on our shared values of freedom, rule of law, and human dignity. This year in particular is special, as it marks the 45th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, one of the cornerstones of our bilateral relationship.

In April of last year, I had the honor of meeting then-President Tsai Ing-wen at the Ronald Reagan Library in California. Then in February of this year, in Taipei, I met with former-President Tsai as well as President- William Lai, and Speaker Han Kuo-yu during the transition between their administrations. I witnessed firsthand how Taiwan is taking critical steps to build up its military, lead on technological innovation, and foster a vibrant economy.

In the U.S., bipartisan support for Taiwan is widely shared among members of both parties. In the past two years, our Congress has passed important legislation to deter Chinese Communist Party aggression in the Indo-Pacific, including many of the Select Committee's Ten for Taiwan policy recommendations.

We have further sought to promote diplomatic engagement and enhance economic ties between America and Taiwan as well. Last year, Taiwan was the United States' eighth-largest trading partner and sixth-largest agricultural export market, while Taiwan's foreign direct investment into the United States reached \$16.1 billion – more than doubling over the past decade.

Together, the U.S. and Taiwan are not just trading goods but investing in the future. The semiconductor industry is vital for both of our economies, impacting everything from our smartphones to the cars we drive. Strengthening our supply chains and working together on innovation is crucial for both mutual security and economic prosperity.

I am grateful the United States has a partner like Taiwan working with us on the global challenges of the future. The United States and our partners can ill afford to waiver in the face of resurgent authoritarianism and the resilience of the Taiwanese people in upholding their democratic ideals should inspire us all.

Our bilateral relationship is strong, but there is more we must do together, and I look forward to continuing that in the months ahead.

Thank you.