

**Testimony from Karla Jones, Vice President, ALEC Center for International Freedom  
American Legislative Exchange Council  
Re: Maryland HJ0007**

Thank you for the invitation to submit testimony on behalf of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), America's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of state lawmakers dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism to offer nonpartisan research and analysis on HJ0007 *Opposition to the People's Republic of China's Misuse of United Nations Resolution 2758 to Delegitimize Taiwan*. This resolution opposes the misuse and intentional misrepresentations of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) *Resolution 2758 Restoration of the Lawful Rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations*, also known as the Resolution on Admitting Peking. Adopted by UNGA in October 1971, the People's Republic of China (PRC) often distorts UNGA Resolution 2758 weaponizing it against Taiwan.

Having the opportunity to comment on this legislation is particularly meaningful since ALEC has long supported Taiwan's right to self-determination and ALEC members have adopted model policies aimed at strengthening the US-Taiwan partnership for more than 15 years. ALEC members and staff have traveled to Taiwan to witness its vibrant, innovative economy and democratic processes firsthand. Fittingly, Taiwan is a centerpiece of the newly launched ALEC Center for International Freedom which seeks to empower leaders where freedom is under threat and works to stem the erosion of democracy globally. The ideas in HJ0007 will help Taiwan to enjoy full membership in the community of nations – a privilege it has earned.

The Republic of China (ROC) also known as Taiwan was one of the 51 original member states of the UN until the adoption of Resolution 2758 which recognized the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the representative of the member state of China in the global body. Shifting representative status to the PRC was never intended to settle the matter of the One China Principle (OCP), although the PRC has conflated UNGA 2758 with the OCP. Most alarmingly, the PRC is using UNGA 2758 to support Beijing's view that Taiwan is a ["renegade province"](#) that needs to be reunified with the PRC, by force if necessary. However, this interpretation of UNGA 2758 is inconsistent with international law. The German Marshall Fund of the United States has published a comprehensive report on this subject – [Why UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 Does Not Establish Beijing's "One China" Principle: A Legal Perspective](#) – that I recommend to all who want to understand this complicated topic.

PRC weaponization of UNGA 2758 is far reaching with global implications.

- The misuse of UNGA 2758 undermines Taiwan's sovereignty.
  - Taiwan is in the center of the ["first island chain"](#), a strategically significant string of islands that stretch from Japan to the Philippines and Indonesia. The first

island chain is vital to US force projection in the Asia-Pacific and serves as a deterrent to PRC aggression.

- The United States relies on Taiwan for technology items including most notably semiconductors and a loss of Taiwanese self-determination would negatively affect America's international supply chains and national security. [This Center for Strategic and International Studies \(CSIS\) Report](#) details how intertwined the US and Taiwan are in cooperation on and trade in semiconductors.
  - Taiwan is regularly highlighted as a beacon of democracy in the Asia-Pacific and the annexation of Taiwan by the PRC would have a profound impact on strengthening young and fragile regional democracies.
- Taiwan is barred from participating fully in critical international bodies including the International Criminal Policy Organization (INTERPOL), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). As a sovereign country with a population of more than 23.5 million located in one of the globe's fastest growing regions with a dynamic economy that leads in the manufacturing of many of the technologies underpinning 21<sup>st</sup> century innovation, Taiwan's participation in these international organizations would enhance their work. However, Taiwan's efforts for full membership and even participation are routinely blocked by the PRC.
    - Taiwan's exclusion from INTERPOL is inconsistent with the organization's "vision" of ["a world where law enforcement can securely access, share and communicate vital police information whenever and wherever needed, thereby supporting the security of the world's citizens"](#) and deprives the world of the very information needed to ensure security for reasons that are geopolitical rather than practical. Taiwan has a strong willingness and ability to contribute to fighting transnational crime including cybercrime for which Taiwan is especially well-suited given its robust information, communications and technology (ICT) sector.
    - Excluding Taiwan from the WHO prevents Taipei from efficiently sharing best practices globally. Given Taiwan's exemplary handling of the COVID 19 pandemic, Taiwan's contributions in the health space are particularly valuable.
    - Aviation safety is a global issue that requires all members of the global community to take part in the ICAO to best serve the interests of every passenger. Taiwan's absence is particularly risky since the Taipei Flight Information Region (FIR) is adjacent to the Fukuoka, Manila, Hong Kong and Shanghai FIRs, situating it among the busiest FIRs in the world.

Taiwan policies have been a feature of my work at ALEC and as a longtime Maryland resident, I am happy that the Maryland General Assembly is focusing on the PRC's delegitimization of Taiwan, a beacon of democracy in the Asia-Pacific and a significant economic and strategic partner to the United States. I invite you to contact me with any questions at [kjones@alec.org](mailto:kjones@alec.org).