

Manager's Amendment

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To amend the preamble.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. Res. 446

Commending the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for its resolve in increasing ties with Taiwan and supporting its firm stance against coercion by the Chinese Communist Party.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. RISCH

Viz:

1 Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on May 20, 2021, the parliament of Lithuania passed a resolution in which it recognized the People's Republic of China's treatment of the Uyghurs and members of Muslim and minority communities in Xinjiang region as a genocide, called upon the United Nations to investigate the People's Republic of China's internment camps for Uyghurs, and asked the European Commission to review its relationship with the People's Republic of China;

Whereas, on May 21, 2021, Lithuania withdrew from the 17+1 format that facilitates collaboration between Central and Eastern European nations and the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the 17+1 was designed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to both create business and cultural exchange opportunities for the People's Republic of China, and to divide European nations on sub-regional issues regarding the People's Republic of China;

Whereas, on June 22, 2021, the Government of Lithuania announced its donation of 20,000 COVID-19 vaccines to Taiwan after the People's Republic of China blocked Taiwan from participation in the world-wide COVAX vaccine sharing scheme;

Whereas, on July 20, 2021, the Government of Lithuania announced the establishment of exchange offices with Taiwan under the name of the Taiwanese Representative Office, which formally opened on November 18, 2021;

Whereas the CCP has aggressively punished other organizations and nations for using the name "Taiwan" to refer to the island, rather than referring to it by the CCP preferred "Chinese Taipei", a practice by which the CCP seeks to force other nations to conform to its view that Taiwan is a part of China;

Whereas, in retaliation to the Government of Lithuania's announcement of the Taiwanese Representative Office, the CCP implemented severe economic restrictions on Lithuania, including the removal of Lithuania from the People's Republic of China's customs registry and the rejection of Lithuanian import applications;

Whereas, on August 10, 2021, the Government of the People's Republic of China protested the announcement of the new Lithuanian office in Taiwan by recalling its ambassador to Vilnius, and demanding that Lithuania remove its ambassador from Beijing;

Whereas, on September 4, 2021, Lithuania's Ambassador to China, Diana Mickevičienė, returned to Vilnius, and on December 15, 2021, the Lithuanian Embassy in Beijing was closed;

Whereas Lithuania's European neighbors and European Union (EU) leaders have commended Lithuania's bravery and have expressed willingness to stand in solidarity with Lithuania against Chinese coercion, including by issuing a joint letter from European Parliament members on September 3, 2021, as well in a statement from EU Minister for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell;

Whereas, on September 15, 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken reaffirmed the United States commitment to Lithuania, stating, "Lithuania and the United States are very strong partners in NATO. We stand together for collective defense and security. We stand against economic coercion, including that being exerted by China.";

Whereas, on September 21, 2021, the Ministry of National Defence in Lithuania recommended that citizens not purchase phones manufactured in the People's Republic of China and throw away their existing phones, after evidence emerged that the devices have censorship technology built in;

Whereas, on September 22, 2021, the Government of Lithuania announced an additional vaccine donation to Taiwan totaling 235,900 doses;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has engaged in economic coercion to punish countries that do not do as the CCP wishes, including by banning the import of Australian wine and agricultural products after the Government of Australia supported launching an international

investigation into the origins of the COVID–19 pandemic, closing South Korean department stores and tourism after the Republic of Korea deployed the United States Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile battery, restricting imports from the Philippines after that nation protested the People’s Republic of China’s assertive and unlawful actions in Scarborough Shoal, and cutting the imports of Norwegian salmon after Norway awarded a Chinese dissident with the Nobel Prize;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has made efforts to coerce multinational companies to suspend business in Lithuania by threatening to exclude them from the Chinese market;

Whereas the CCP regularly uses its economic power to pressure Taiwan’s diplomatic allies to cut ties with the island and instead diplomatically recognize the People’s Republic of China, as was it did most recently with the Solomon Islands and Kiribati, leaving Taiwan with just 15 diplomatic allies;

Whereas Taiwan announced the creation of a \$200,000,000 investment fund to increase bilateral trade and support critical industries in Lithuania, and has made efforts to receive Lithuanian goods originally bound for China that were blocked from delivery by the Government of the People’s Republic of China; and

Whereas the CCP has repeatedly and continuously barred Taiwan from meaningful participation in key international organizations such as the World Health Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, and other United Nations organizations and affiliated mechanisms in an attempt to diplomatically isolate Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it