



HR0195

LRB099 11134 GRL 31602 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Relations between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States, in particular the State of Illinois, which shares sister-city and sister-state relationships, are marked by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural exchanges, and tourism; and

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WHEREAS, Taiwan, which is the world's 19th-largest economy, shares with the United States and the State of Illinois the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and a commitment to the rule of law; and

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WHEREAS, As of 2014, Taiwan is the United States' 10th-largest trading partner in the world, with bilateral trade worth US \$67.4 billion, and is the United States' 14th-largest export market, with total U.S. exports worth US \$26.8 billion, and its 12th-largest source of imports; and

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WHEREAS, Taiwan and the State of Illinois have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship and anticipate continuing growth, as Illinois in 2014 continued to rank 5th among all U.S. states in the value of overall exports to Taiwan, worth US \$940.13 billion, a 2% increase in value over its 2013 exports to Taiwan; Taiwan ranks as Illinois' 15th-largest export market, its 6th-largest market in Asia, and

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1 its 9th-largest source of imports; and

2 WHEREAS, Taiwan has consistently imported between US \$2.5
3 billion and US \$3 billion of U.S. farm products annually and is
4 the world's 2nd largest consumer per-capita of U.S.
5 agricultural goods in 2013; the Illinois economy has greatly
6 benefited from Taiwan's reliably large imports of Illinois farm
7 products, which in 2014 were worth US \$578.4 million for
8 agricultural products (US \$532.4 million) and food
9 manufactures (US \$46 million) combined, together comprising
10 61.5% of Illinois' total exports to Taiwan that year; and

11 WHEREAS, Taiwan, in order to contribute to greater regional
12 integration in the Asia-Pacific region and to further promote
13 bilateral investment and trade relations with the United
14 States, Taiwan's 2nd-largest trading partner, seeks to join the
15 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the proposed 21st century
16 trade agreement between the United States and currently 11
17 other Asia-Pacific Rim countries; the United States has
18 announced its intention that membership in the TPP expand in
19 the future to include other friendly countries, such as Taiwan;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 19th-largest economy, the
22 20th-largest exporter, and the 18th-largest importer in the
23 world, according to the 2013 World Trade Organization report;

1 Taiwan also should be included in regional economic integration
2 due to its status as an important economic power, a dynamic
3 market economy, and leading supplier of high-tech products; and

4 WHEREAS, Taiwan ranks as the world's 14th-freest economy
5 and the 8th freest in the Asian Pacific, according to the 2015
6 Index of Economic Freedom; Taiwan also ranks as the 13th-most
7 competitive economy worldwide and the 6th most competitive in
8 the Asian Pacific, according to the Swiss-based International
9 Institute for Management Development's 2014 report; and

10 WHEREAS, Taiwan's admission to the U.S. Visa Waiver Program
11 in November of 2012 has, as predicted, led to increased tourist
12 and business travel from Taiwan, increasing more than 29% in
13 the 8 months after Taiwan joined the Visa Waiver Program,
14 according to the April 2014 testimony of U.S. State Department
15 Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel
16 R. Russel, who acknowledged the Department's pleasure with the
17 result as "foreign visitors to the United States generate
18 stateside jobs"; moreover, travel by Taiwanese visitors to the
19 United States remains higher than in prior years, having
20 increased 33% in 2013 and 7% in the first half of 2014; and

21 WHEREAS, Negotiations for a bilateral investment agreement
22 between Taiwan and the United States are an important step
23 toward further strengthening bilateral trade and paving the way

1 for entering into a free trade agreement between our 2
2 countries, thereby increasing Illinois's exports to Taiwan and
3 creating bilateral investment and technical collaboration
4 through tariff reduction and other trade facilitation
5 measures; and

6 WHEREAS, Taiwan, as a full-fledged democracy that shares
7 the same values of freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule
8 of law, peace, and prosperity with the United States and the
9 State of Illinois, should be allowed to participate
10 appropriately in international organizations, such as the
11 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, so as to
12 advance the welfare of the 23 million people of Taiwan and
13 further contribute to the international community; therefore,
14 be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
17 reaffirm our commitment to the strong and deepening sister-city
18 and sister-state relationships between Taiwan and the State of
19 Illinois; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our continued support for
21 Taiwan's efforts to secure entry to the Trans-Pacific
22 Partnership to contribute to greater regional integration; and
23 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our continued endorsement of the
2 signing of a bilateral investment agreement between Taiwan and
3 the United States to promote Taiwan's bilateral investment and
4 trade relations with the United States and facilitate its
5 economic and other ties with Illinois and the individual
6 states; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our support for Taiwan's
8 participation in international organizations, such as the
9 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, that
10 impact the health, safety, and well-being of Taiwan; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 presented to United States Secretary of State John F. Kerry,
14 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
15 Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres, and the Taipei
16 Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago.