



HR1115

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is proud of the sister-state  
3 relationship it has enjoyed with the Republic of China (Taiwan)  
4 since 1992, which has been consolidated by strong bilateral  
5 trade, tourism, and cultural exchanges, and further boosted by  
6 the shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and a  
7 commitment to the rule of law; and

8           WHEREAS, Taiwan is the world's 19th-largest economy, the  
9 United States' 9th-largest trading partner, and Illinois'  
10 19th-largest export market; Taiwan has consistently imported  
11 between US\$2.5-\$3 billion annually worth of United States farm  
12 products and ranks as one of the world's top consumers  
13 per-capita of United States agricultural goods; the Illinois  
14 economy has greatly benefited from Taiwan's reliable imports of  
15 Illinois farm products, which in 2015 were worth US\$275.7  
16 million for agricultural products and US\$43.8 million for food  
17 manufactures, together comprising at least 50.4% of Illinois'  
18 total exports to Taiwan last year; in 2015, Illinois ranked  
19 eighth among all U.S. states in the value of its overall  
20 exports to Taiwan, worth US\$634 million; and

21           WHEREAS, On January 16, 2016, Taiwan held its sixth direct  
22 presidential election, once again demonstrating the maturity  
23 and strength of its democratic system, which has long been

1 commended as a beacon of democracy for Chinese-based societies;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan ranks as the world's 14th-freest economy,  
4 the fifth-freest economy in the Asia-Pacific region, the  
5 11th-most competitive economy worldwide, and the third-most  
6 competitive economy in the Asia-Pacific region; Taiwan should  
7 be entitled to contribute to greater regional economic  
8 integration in the Asia-Pacific region in order to further  
9 promote bilateral investment and trade relations with its Asian  
10 neighbors, as well as with the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Negotiations for a bilateral investment agreement  
12 between Taiwan and the United States are an important step  
13 toward further strengthening bilateral trade and paving the way  
14 for entering into a free trade agreement between our two  
15 countries, thereby increasing Illinois' exports to Taiwan and  
16 creating bilateral investment and technical collaboration  
17 through tariff reduction and other trade facilitation  
18 measures; and

19 WHEREAS, Taiwan, as a full-fledged democracy that shares  
20 the same values of freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule  
21 of law, peace, and prosperity with the United States and the  
22 State of Illinois, should be allowed to participate  
23 appropriately in international organizations in order to

1 advance the welfare of the 23 million people of Taiwan and  
2 further contribute Taiwan's unique experience and expertise to  
3 the international community; therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
6 commend and support Taiwan's mature and vibrant democracy and  
7 celebrate the 24th anniversary of sister-state relations and  
8 the deepening sister-city relationships between Taiwan and the  
9 State of Illinois; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our continued support for  
11 Taiwan's efforts to contribute to greater regional integration  
12 through economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and  
13 further promote bilateral investment and trade relations with  
14 the United States; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our continued endorsement of the  
16 signing of a bilateral investment agreement between Taiwan and  
17 the United States to promote Taiwan's bilateral investment and  
18 trade relations with the United States and to facilitate its  
19 economic and other ties with Illinois and the individual  
20 states; and be it further

21       RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our support for Taiwan's  
22 participation in international organizations that impact the

1 health, safety, and well-being of Taiwanese citizens and that  
2 contribute to the global community; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
4 presented to United States Secretary of State John F. Kerry,  
5 the members of the Illinois congressional delegation, and the  
6 Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago.