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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Republic of China (Taiwan) has achieved
3 economic and social stability; in 2010, Taiwan was ranked as
4 the United States' 9th-largest trading partner in the world;
5 Taiwan is also the United States' 13th-largest export market
6 and 9th largest source of imports, with U.S. exports to Taiwan
7 in 2010 having increased by 43%; and

8 WHEREAS, In the last 2 decades, Taiwan has been praised as
9 a beacon of democracy for Asia, having successfully completed
10 its parliamentary elections and its 5th direct, popular
11 presidential election on January 14, 2012; and

12 WHEREAS, Taiwan has taken great steps forward to enter the
13 world arena as a trusted partner; for the last 3 years, Taiwan
14 has participated as an observer in the World Health Assembly of
15 the World Health Organization (WHO); in 2012, Taiwan will
16 celebrate its 20th anniversary of participation in the
17 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, of which the United
18 States is a longtime and respected member; and

19 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been added by the United States
20 government as a candidate for the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, for
21 which Taiwan is grateful to the United States, and, in
22 particular, to the Illinois House of Representatives for its

1 support in this regard; and

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a strong economic and
3 cultural relationship with Taiwan since establishing
4 sister-state relations in 1992; in 2011, Illinois ranked 5th
5 among U.S. states in the value of overall exports to Taiwan,
6 which increased 47% last year and were worth almost \$1.2
7 billion; these figures rose from \$812 million in 2010, when
8 Illinois exports to Taiwan ranked 6th among U.S. states; and

9 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the world's 6th-largest market for
10 United States agricultural goods, with Taiwan having sent 26
11 procurement missions to the United States between 1978 and
12 2011; these missions have enhanced the mutually beneficial
13 trade relations and permanent friendship between the 2
14 countries, while the Illinois economy has benefited from
15 Taiwan's consistently large imports of Illinois agricultural
16 products; in 2011, the State's agricultural exports to Taiwan,
17 worth \$739.24 million, comprised almost 62% of Illinois' total
18 exports to Taiwan and increased 82% from the State's 2010
19 agricultural exports to Taiwan (\$406.78 million); and

20 WHEREAS, Taiwan's continuing absence from international
21 organizations dealing with climate change has impeded Taiwan's
22 ability to respond to natural disasters, such as Typhoon
23 Morakot in 2009, while the global initiative to combat climate

1 change has been impaired by the lack of participation of
2 Taiwan; similarly, Taiwan's absence from international
3 organizations dealing with airline safety and security, major
4 global concerns since 2001, has left a gap in the international
5 aviation security system, as Taiwan is a key transport hub in
6 the Asia-Pacific region; Taiwan has more than 1,000,000 flights
7 passing through the Taipei Flight Information Region and one of
8 the world's largest airports by cargo volume, Taoyuan
9 International Airport; and

10 WHEREAS, The Taiwan government highly values its relations
11 with the United States and continually seeks to demonstrate its
12 willingness to contribute its resources and know-how to the
13 international community, such as its swift delivery of
14 humanitarian assistance to Haiti following the 2010 earthquake
15 in that country; the aid was expedited by the United States,
16 which generously aided Taiwan in rescue and recovery after
17 Typhoon Morakot; Taiwan also seeks to contribute to peace,
18 freedom, and security in the world as a responsible stakeholder
19 and peaceable nation of 23 million citizens through the
20 Republic of China's policies, such as "flexible diplomacy" in
21 foreign affairs and its pragmatic approach to relations with
22 the People's Republic of China, as demonstrated by the historic
23 passage in 2010 and implementation in 2011 of the Economic
24 Cooperation Framework Agreement between Taipei and Beijing;
25 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate the Republic of China (Taiwan) on its
4 successful presidential and parliamentary elections and on the
5 re-election to a second term of President Ma Ying-jeou; and be
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, That we further congratulate Taiwan on the 20th
8 anniversary of its participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic
9 Cooperation (APEC) forum to increase Taiwan's international
10 space and contribution to the global community; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That we affirm our support for the meaningful
13 participation of Taiwan in the United Nations Framework
14 Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the International
15 Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with observer status; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 delivered to United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham
19 Clinton, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres, ICAO
20 Secretary General Raymond Benjamin, and the Taipei Economic and
21 Cultural Office in Chicago.