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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Republic of China (Taiwan) marked its
3 centennial in 2011 and is the 18th-largest trading economy in
4 the world(as of 2012) and has achieved economic and social
5 stability; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2012, Taiwan ranked as the United States'
7 11th-largest trading partner in the world and is the United
8 States' 16th-largest export market, with U.S. exports to Taiwan
9 in 2012 worth U.S. \$24.4 billion, and is the United States'
10 11th-largest source of imports; and

11 WHEREAS, In the last 2 decades, Taiwan has been praised as
12 a beacon of democracy for Asia, having successfully completed
13 its parliamentary elections and its 5th direct, popular
14 presidential election on January 14, 2012, electing to a second
15 term, President Ma Ying-jeou, who was inaugurated on May 20,
16 2012; and

17 WHEREAS, Taiwan has taken great steps forward to enter the
18 world arena as a trusted partner; for each year since 2009,
19 Taiwan has participated as an observer in the World Health
20 Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO); and

21 WHEREAS, Last fall the government of the United States

1 announced the inclusion of Taiwan in the U.S. Visa Waiver
2 Program; effective November 1, 2012, Taiwan became the 37th
3 member to receive visa-free travel privileges to the United
4 States and only the 5th Asian country with visa-free status
5 (behind Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Brunei); it is
6 expected that more Taiwanese will come to the United States for
7 business and tourism, increasing spending of tourist dollars
8 and facilitating business, trade, and investment in the United
9 States, thus contributing to the U.S. and local economies and
10 strengthening bilateral relations and ties with the individual
11 states, including Illinois; moreover, Taiwan is grateful to the
12 United States, and to the Illinois State legislators, for its
13 support in this effort; and

14 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a strong economic and
15 cultural relationship with Taiwan since establishing
16 sister-state relations on August 27, 1992; in 2012, Illinois
17 ranked 5th among U.S. states in the value of overall exports to
18 Taiwan, were worth almost \$952 million U.S.; the Illinois
19 economy has benefited from Taiwan's consistently large imports
20 of Illinois agricultural products, which in 2012 were worth
21 \$554 million U.S. and comprised more than 58% of Illinois'
22 total exports to Taiwan; and

23 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the world's 6th-largest market for
24 United States agricultural goods, with Taiwan having sent 26

1 agricultural missions to the United States between 1978 and
2 2011; these missions have enhanced the mutually beneficial
3 trade relations and permanent friendship between the 2
4 countries, and promoted ties between Taiwan and Illinois, which
5 hosted the Taiwan soybean and corn delegation in 2011 in
6 Springfield and Rockford; and

7 WHEREAS, International airline safety and security have
8 been major global concerns since 2001; Taiwan, a key transport
9 hub in the Asia-Pacific region, has more than one million
10 flights per year passing through the Taipei Flight Information
11 Region and has one of the world's largest airports by cargo
12 volume, Taoyuan International Airport Taiwan; Taiwan seeks
13 meaningful participation with observer status in the
14 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), but has not
15 been accorded it and is not a member, leaving a gap in the
16 aviation security and navigation system; Taiwan can be a
17 valuable and constructive partner to the ICAO in the global
18 strategy to address airline safety and security based on
19 effective international cooperation, while Taiwan's
20 participation in that international organization can also
21 narrow the security gap, reduce the exposure to threats, and
22 increase aviation safety; and

23 WHEREAS, The Taiwan government continually seeks to
24 demonstrate its willingness to contribute its resources and

1 know-how to the international community, such as its swift
2 delivery of humanitarian assistance to Haiti following the 2010
3 earthquake in that country; the aid was expedited by the United
4 States, which generously aided Taiwan in rescue and recovery
5 after Typhoon Morakot; Taiwan also seeks to contribute to
6 peace, freedom, and security in the world as a responsible
7 stakeholder and peaceable nation of 23 million citizens through
8 the Republic of China's policies, such as "flexible diplomacy"
9 in foreign affairs and its pragmatic approach to relations with
10 mainland China, as demonstrated by the historic passage in 2010
11 and implementation in 2011 of the Economic Cooperation
12 Framework Agreement between Taipei and Beijing; and

13 WHEREAS, The Taiwan government highly values its relations
14 with the United States and regards strengthening Taiwan-U.S.
15 relations as a top policy priority and is gratified that the
16 United States and Taiwan have resumed high-level talks under
17 the bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA),
18 an important platform to resolve trade and commerce issues; the
19 bilateral regard for talk, which deputy U.S. trade
20 representative hailed after the meeting completed on March 10,
21 2013, in Taipei as a "big success" and his counterpart in
22 Taiwan said lay "a solid foundation for future collaboration in
23 areas of mutual interest", as both sides are committed to
24 working together to raise trade, investment, and the bilateral
25 relationship "to the next level", which is expected to help

1 forge closer relations between the 2 countries and create a
2 win-win environment for more Taiwanese trade and investment
3 with individual states, including Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Taiwan seeks greater regional integration in the
5 Asia-Pacific region and promotion of bilateral investment and
6 trade relations with the United States, welcomes the
7 opportunity presented by the United States' "pivot to Asia" and
8 announcement in 2011 (at the meeting of leaders at the
9 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum) of the United States'
10 intent to not only join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP),
11 the proposed 21st century trade agreement between the U.S. and
12 8 other Asia-Pacific Rim countries, but to expand TPP
13 membership in the future to include other countries, such as
14 Taiwan; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, we designate the date of
17 August 27, 2013, as Taiwan Relations Day in the State of
18 Illinois in recognition of the 21st anniversary of Illinois
19 sister statehood with the Republic of China (Taiwan); and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That we welcome resumption of U.S.-Taiwan trade
22 talks, and express support for Taiwan's efforts to secure entry
23 into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), to promote its

1 bilateral investment and trade relations with the United States
2 and facilitate its economic and other ties with Illinois and
3 the individual states; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That to increase Taiwan's international space
5 and the degree to which Taiwan benefits from and contributes to
6 global efforts to enhance international airline safety and
7 security, we reaffirm our support for the meaningful
8 participation of Taiwan in the International Civil Aviation
9 Organization (ICAO) with observer status; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 presented to United States Secretary of State John F. Kerry,
12 ICAO Secretary General Raymond Benjamin, and the Taipei
13 Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago.