



HR0875

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

7 WHEREAS, Taiwan, which is the world's 17th-largest
8 economy, shares with the United States and the State of
9 Illinois, the common values of freedom, democracy, human
10 rights, and a commitment to the rule of law; and

11 WHEREAS, As of 2012, Taiwan is the United States'
12 11th-largest trading partner in the world, with bilateral trade
13 worth US\$63,000,000,000, the 16th-largest export market, with
14 total U.S. exports worth US\$24,400,000,000, the 6th-largest
15 market for U.S. agricultural goods, and its 11th-largest source
16 of imports; and

17 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the State of Illinois have enjoyed a
18 long and mutually beneficial relationship and anticipate
19 continuing growth, as Illinois in 2012 continued to rank 5th
20 among all U.S. states in the value of overall exports to
21 Taiwan, then worth almost US\$952,000,000, and Taiwan in 2012,
22 ranked as Illinois' 16th-largest export destination, its

1 6th-largest market in Asia, and its 9th-largest source of
2 imports; and

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan has consistently imported more than
4 US\$3,500,000,000 of U.S. farm products annually and is the
5 world's largest consumer per-capita of U.S. agricultural
6 goods, including corn and soybeans, so vital to the Prairie
7 State; while the Illinois economy has greatly benefited from
8 Taiwan's reliably large imports of Illinois farm products,
9 which in 2012 were worth US\$553,500,000 and comprised more than
10 58% of Illinois's 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 third-largest trading partner, seeks to join
15 the 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, an important economic power, a dynamic
22 market economy, and leading supplier of high-tech products, is
23 the 14th-largest exporter, and 16th-largest importer,

1 worldwide; according to the 2014 Index of Economic Freedom,
2 Taiwan ranks as the world's 17th-freest economy, and 5th-freest
3 among 42 economies in the Asia-Pacific region, behind Hong
4 Kong, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand, and is deserving
5 of greater participation and inclusion in wider regional
6 economic integration; and

7 WHEREAS, Negotiations for a bilateral investment agreement
8 between Taiwan and the United States are an important step
9 toward further strengthening bilateral trade and paving the way
10 for entering into a free trade agreement between our 2
11 countries, thereby increasing Illinois's exports to Taiwan and
12 creating bilateral investment and technical collaboration
13 through tariff reduction and other trade facilitation
14 measures; and

15 WHEREAS, Taiwan is grateful to the United States and, in
16 particular, to the State of Illinois, for their support of
17 Taiwan's efforts to participate in international organizations
18 such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
19 which bore fruit last year when the ICAO admitted Taiwan to
20 attend the triennial ICAO Assembly in September of 2013 as a
21 special guest, an encouraging first step as Taiwan uses this
22 international mechanism to contribute to, and benefit from, the
23 global strategy and effort to improve airline security and
24 aviation safety; and

1 WHEREAS, Despite such modest successes, Taiwan's continued
2 absence from international organizations, such as the United
3 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has
4 hampered Taiwan's ability to participate in global climate
5 initiatives and to respond to natural disasters such as Typhoon
6 Haiyan, which struck the Philippines in November of 2013,
7 resulting in the deaths of more than 6,000 people, the
8 displacement of almost 2 million people, and more than
9 US\$216,000,000 in economic damage to the Philippines's
10 infrastructure and agriculture, and since Taiwan and the
11 Philippines are geographically close and both are subject to
12 the severe effects of typhoons, Taiwan should be allowed to
13 participate appropriately in, and no longer be excluded from,
14 the UNFCCC; and

15 WHEREAS, Taiwan can be a valuable and constructive partner
16 in the international response to adverse effects of climate
17 change and severe weather emergencies, as evidenced by Taiwan's
18 speedy and generous response to aid the victims of Typhoon
19 Haiyan in the Philippines through practical assistance by
20 Taiwan government agencies, direct government aid, and total
21 donations, including private donations, of approximately
22 US\$12,220,000 in cash and in-kind relief; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we affirm our commitment to the strong and deepening
3 sister-city and sister-state relationships between Taiwan and
4 the State of Illinois, and express continued support for
5 Taiwan's efforts to secure entry to the Trans-Pacific
6 Partnership (TPP); and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we endorse the signing of a bilateral
8 investment agreement with the United States and continue to
9 welcome the U.S.-Taiwan trade talks, to promote Taiwan's
10 bilateral investment and trade relations with the United States
11 and facilitate its economic and other ties with Illinois and
12 the individual states; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we extend our support for Taiwan's
14 appropriate participation in international organizations, such
15 as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
16 (UNFCCC), that impact the health, safety, and well-being of
17 Taiwan; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 presented to United States Secretary of State John F. Kerry,
20 UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres, and the Taipei
21 Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago.