



SR0283

LRB100 11853 MST 23310 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is proud of the sister-state relationship it has enjoyed with the Republic of China (Taiwan) since 1992, marked by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural exchange, and tourism; and

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WHEREAS, Taiwan shares the same values of freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, peace, and prosperity with the United States and the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan's second largest trading partner; Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner of the United States; bilateral trade reached \$66.6 billion in 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Taiwan and the State of Illinois have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the prospect of future growth; Taiwan was Illinois' sixth largest export market in Asia in 2015, with \$633.8 million worth of Illinois goods exported to Taiwan; and

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WHEREAS, Negotiations for a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) between Taiwan and the United States are an important step toward further strengthening bilateral trade and paving the way for entering into a Free Trade Agreement between our

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1 countries, thereby increasing Illinois' exports to Taiwan and
2 creating bilateral investment and technical collaboration
3 through tariff reduction and other trade facilitation
4 measures; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan has undertaken a policy of "steadfast
6 diplomacy" in its international relations; Taiwan is capable of
7 and willing to fulfill its responsibilities and to collaborate
8 with the world to deal with the challenges of humanitarian
9 aids, disease control, and so forth; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we reaffirm our
12 commitment to the strengthening and deepening of the
13 sister-state relationship between Taiwan and the State of
14 Illinois; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we endorse Taiwan's efforts to secure the
16 signing of Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) and Free Trade
17 Agreement (FTA) with the United States; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we continue to support Taiwan's appropriate
19 participation in international organizations which impact the
20 health, safety, and well-being of its people, and support its
21 aspiration to make more contributions in international
22 societies; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to all members of the Illinois Congressional
3 Delegation and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
4 Chicago.