



HR0253

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Republic of China (Taiwan) has achieved  
3 economic and social stability, currently the world's 16th  
4 largest trading nation; in the last 2 decades it has been  
5 praised as a beacon of democracy for Asia; it has taken great  
6 steps forward to enter the world arena as a trusted partner;  
7 and for the last 2 years has participated as an observer in the  
8 World Health Assembly, for which Taiwan is grateful to the  
9 United States, and, in particular, the Illinois General  
10 Assembly for their longstanding support in this regard; and

11           WHEREAS, Illinois has a strong economic and cultural  
12 relationship with Taiwan since establishing sister-state  
13 relations in 1992; Illinois has ranked 6th in the last 2 years  
14 among U.S. states in the value of Illinois' overall exports to  
15 Taiwan; in 2010 U.S. exports to Taiwan increased by 43%; Taiwan  
16 sent 25 procurement missions to the United States between 1978  
17 and 2009, which have enhanced the mutually beneficial trade  
18 relations and permanent friendship between the 2 countries,  
19 while the Illinois economy has benefited from Taiwan's  
20 consistently large imports of Illinois agricultural products;  
21 in 2009, Taiwan was one of the world's largest importers of  
22 Illinois soy products and ranked as the 13th largest market for  
23 Illinois exports overall; and

1           WHEREAS, Taiwan's continuing absence from international  
2 organizations dealing with climate change has impeded Taiwan's  
3 ability to respond to natural disasters, such as Typhoon  
4 Morakot in 2009, while the global initiative to combat climate  
5 change has been impaired by the lack of participation of  
6 Taiwan; and, similarly, Taiwan's absence from international  
7 organizations dealing with airline safety and security, major  
8 global concerns since 2001, has left a gap in the international  
9 aviation security system, as Taiwan is a key transport hub in  
10 the Asia-Pacific region with more than 1,000,000 flights  
11 passing through the Taipei Flight Information Region and one of  
12 the world's largest airports by cargo volume, Taoyuan  
13 International Airport; and

14           WHEREAS, The Taiwan government highly values its relations  
15 with the United States and continually seeks to demonstrate its  
16 willingness to contribute its resources and know-how to the  
17 international community, such as its swift delivery of  
18 humanitarian assistance to Haiti following the 2010 earthquake  
19 in that country, expedited by the United States, which has  
20 generously aided Taiwan in rescue and recovery after Typhoon  
21 Morakot; and to contribute to peace, freedom, and security in  
22 the world as a responsible stakeholder and peaceable nation of  
23 23,000,000 citizens through the Republic of China's policies,  
24 such as "flexible diplomacy" in foreign affairs and its  
25 pragmatic approach to relations with mainland China, as

1 demonstrated by the historic passage in 2010 and implementation  
2 in 2011 of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement between  
3 Taipei and Beijing; and

4 WHEREAS, The Taiwan government has met a central  
5 requirement for inclusion in the United States Visa Waiver  
6 Program by achieving a low visa-rejection rate of less than 3%  
7 among Republic of China nationals applying for visas to the  
8 United States and has gained visa-waiver status with 97 other  
9 countries, including the European Union, the United Kingdom,  
10 and Canada, which, taken together, represents 94% of the most  
11 frequently visited countries by Republic of China citizens and  
12 is an increase of 44 countries of those granting Taiwan  
13 visa-waiver status in just 2 1/2 years, thus symbolizing the  
14 growing respect commanded by the ROC internationally;  
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
17 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18 we congratulate the Republic of China (Taiwan) on the  
19 centennial of its birth in 1911 as Asia's first Republic; and,  
20 to increase Taiwan's international space and contribution to  
21 the global community, we reaffirm our support for the  
22 meaningful participation of Taiwan in the United Nations  
23 Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the  
24 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with observer

1 status and urge the United States government to include Taiwan  
2 in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program as soon as possible; and be it  
3 further

4       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
5 presented to United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham  
6 Clinton, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres, ICAO  
7 Secretary General Raymond Benjamin, and the Taipei Economic and  
8 Cultural Office in Chicago.