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SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a strong economic and cultural relationship with Taiwan since establishing sister-state relations in 1992; in 2011, Illinois ranked 5th among U.S. states in the value of overall exports to Taiwan,

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1 which increased 47% last year and were worth almost \$1.2  
2 billion; these figures rose from \$812 million in 2010, when  
3 Illinois exports to Taiwan ranked 6th among U.S. states; and

4 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the world's 6th-largest market for  
5 United States agricultural goods, with Taiwan having sent 26  
6 procurement missions to the United States between 1978 and  
7 2011; these missions have enhanced the mutually beneficial  
8 trade relations and permanent friendship between the 2  
9 countries, while the Illinois economy has benefited from  
10 Taiwan's consistently large imports of Illinois agricultural  
11 products; in 2011, the State's agricultural exports to Taiwan,  
12 worth \$739.24 million, comprised almost 62% of Illinois' total  
13 exports to Taiwan and increased 82% from the State's 2010  
14 agricultural exports to Taiwan (\$406.78 million); and

15 WHEREAS, Taiwan's continuing absence from international  
16 organizations dealing with climate change has impeded Taiwan's  
17 ability to respond to natural disasters, such as Typhoon  
18 Morakot in 2009, while the global initiative to combat climate  
19 change has been impaired by the lack of participation of  
20 Taiwan; similarly, Taiwan's absence from international  
21 organizations dealing with airline safety and security, major  
22 global concerns since 2001, has left a gap in the international  
23 aviation security system, as Taiwan is a key transport hub in  
24 the Asia-Pacific region; Taiwan has more than 1,000,000 flights

1 passing through the Taipei Flight Information Region and one of  
2 the world's largest airports by cargo volume, Taoyuan  
3 International Airport; and

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

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the date  
22 of August 27, 2012 as Taiwan Relations Day in the State of  
23 Illinois in recognition of the 20th anniversary of Illinois  
24 sister statehood with the Republic of China (Taiwan); and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That we recognize the Republic of China (Taiwan)  
3 on its successful presidential and parliamentary elections and  
4 on the re-election to a second term of President Ma Ying-jeou;  
5 and be it further

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

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

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