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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Republic of China (Taiwan) marked its
3 centennial in 2011 and began its second century as the world's
4 19th-largest economy (as of 2011) and has achieved economic and
5 social stability; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2011, Taiwan ranked as the United States'
7 10th-largest trading partner in the world and is the United
8 States' 15th-largest export market, with U.S. exports to Taiwan
9 in 2011 worth \$25.9 billion U.S., and its 9th-largest source of
10 imports (in 2010); 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); in 2012,
21 Taiwan celebrated its 20th anniversary of participation in the
22 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, of which the

1 United States is a longtime and respected member; and

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

16 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a strong economic and
17 cultural relationship with Taiwan since establishing
18 sister-state relations in 1992; in 2011, Illinois ranked 5th
19 among U.S. states in the value of overall exports to Taiwan,
20 which increased 47% that year and were worth almost \$1.2
21 billion U.S.; these figures rose from \$812 million U.S. in
22 2010, when Illinois exports to Taiwan ranked 6th among U.S.
23 states; and

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

15 WHEREAS, International airline safety and security have
16 been major global concerns since 2001; Taiwan, a key transport
17 hub in the Asia-Pacific region, has more than one million
18 flights per year passing through the Taipei Flight Information
19 Region and has one of the world's largest airports by cargo
20 volume, Taoyuan International Airport Taiwan; Taiwan seeks
21 meaningful participation with observer status in the
22 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), but has not
23 been accorded it and is not a member, leaving a gap in the
24 aviation security and navigation system; Taiwan can be a
25 valuable and constructive partner to the ICAO in the global

1 strategy to address airline safety and security based on
2 effective international cooperation, while Taiwan's
3 participation in that international organization can also
4 narrow the security gap, reduce the exposure to threats, and
5 increase aviation safety; and

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

20 WHEREAS, The Taiwan government highly values its relations
21 with the United States and is gratified that the United States
22 and Taiwan will restart high-level talks under the bilateral
23 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), an important
24 platform to resolve trade and commerce issues, on March 11-12,

1 2013, in Taipei; it is anticipated that this meeting will help
2 forge closer relations between the 2 countries and create a
3 win-win environment for more Taiwanese trade and investment
4 with individual states, including Illinois; and

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

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate the Republic of China (Taiwan) on gaining
19 inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012, welcome the
20 U.S.-Taiwan trade talks, and express support for Taiwan's
21 efforts to secure entry to the Trans-Pacific Partnership
22 (TPP), to promote its bilateral investment and trade relations
23 with the United States and facilitate its economic and other
24 ties with Illinois and the individual states; and be it further

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

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