

A RESOLUTION commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States, and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2012, Taiwan held its fifth direct presidential election and again demonstrated the strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way for Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia Pacific region in the continuation of stability and growth. Taiwan and mainland China signed the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010. U.S. businesses can collaborate with innovative Taiwanese companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights, and then use Taiwan as a springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian markets; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' eleventh-largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's third-largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Taiwan into the United States' Visa Waiver Program is a significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan choosing the United States as their destination for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Kentucky welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a U.S.-Taiwan Bilateral Investment Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement, and the inclusion of Taiwan in the Trans-Pacific Partnership in order to enhance the special sister-state bond between Kentucky and Taiwan and to encourage further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of both nations; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community with a long history of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as

environmental protection;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔Section 1. The members of this body commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as other international organizations, and extend their most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this Resolution to Mr. Steven Huei-Yuan Tai, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, 1180 West Peachtree Street Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.