

1 A RESOLUTION commending Taiwan for its relations with Kentucky, the United
2 States, and the international community.

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

6 WHEREAS, in the year 2016, Taiwan held its sixth direct presidential election and
7 again demonstrated the strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way for
8 Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond. Tsai Ing-wen was elected as the
9 14th President of Taiwan, becoming the first female president in the country's history, and
10 along with her Vice President Chen Chien-jen, she hopes to continue to build on the
11 country's already rich tradition of economic vitality, cultural growth, and innovation; and

12 WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the
13 continuation of stability and growth; and

14 WHEREAS, Taiwan and mainland China have signed more than 20 agreements in
15 the past decade. United States businesses can collaborate with innovative Taiwanese
16 companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights, and then
17 use Taiwan as a springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian markets;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, since 1982, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Taiwan have enjoyed
20 long, cordial, and mutually beneficial sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to
21 strengthen with each passing year; and

22 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the
23 United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner; and

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

27 WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Kentucky welcomes all

1 opportunities for an even closer economic partnership; and

2 WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) Agricultural and Trade Mission of
3 2015 signed memorandums of understanding with Kentucky to purchase soybeans and
4 corn in 2016 and 2017; and

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

8 NOW, THEREFORE,

9 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
10 *Kentucky:*

11 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate commend and support the
12 democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful participation in the World
13 Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the United
14 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as other international
15 organizations, and extend their most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and
16 success.

17 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
18 Resolution to Mr. Vincent Liu, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural
19 Office, 1180 West Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.