

1 A RESOLUTION commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States.

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the
22 United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner. In 2016, Kentucky's exports to
23 Taiwan reached \$174.1 million; Taiwan is Kentucky's seventh largest export market in
24 Asia; and

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

1 WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Kentucky welcomes all
2 opportunities for an even closer economic partnership; and

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

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

9 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

12 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives commend and support
13 the democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful participation in the
14 World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, as well as
15 other international organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization
16 (INTERPOL), and extend their most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and
17 success.

18 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
19 copy of this Resolution to Mr. Vincent Liu, Director General of the Taipei Economic and
20 Cultural Office in Atlanta, 1180 W. Peachtree St. NW. #800, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.