

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 Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
11 ***Kentucky:***

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

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