

1 A RESOLUTION commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States and
2 the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, on January 13, 2024, Taiwan completed another successful
4 presidential and legislative election; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the
6 United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner, with an estimated bilateral trade
7 amount of \$160 billion in 2022; and

8 WHEREAS, Kentucky's exports to Taiwan increased 62.6 percent between 2020
9 and 2021, and Kentucky's imports from Taiwan increased 49.2 percent between 2020 and
10 2021, making Taiwan Kentucky's eighteenth highest export country and thirteenth
11 highest import country; and

12 WHEREAS, the year 2024 marks the landmark 45th anniversary of the enactment
13 of the Taiwan Relations Act, which has facilitated an even closer partnership between the
14 United States and Taiwan in security, business, education, culture, and people-to-people
15 exchanges; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2023, Taiwan welcomed the largest number of United States
17 official delegations to date; and

18 WHEREAS, Kentucky became a bellwether of education after the launch of the
19 "U.S.–Taiwan Education Initiative" in 2020, by signing the higher education and K-12
20 cooperation memoranda of understanding with Taiwan in 2021, facilitating more
21 Mandarin and English language exchanges between students and teachers; and

22 WHEREAS, under this memorandum of understanding, and thanks to the
23 cooperation between the Kentucky Department of Education and the Asia Institute Crane
24 House, Taiwan welcomed nine English teachers to host a three-week English summer
25 camp for 16 elementary and middle schools; and

26 WHEREAS, Kentucky welcomes all opportunities for an even closer partnership on
27 business, educational, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges between citizens of the

1 United States and Taiwan, and hopes to collaborate better together in the worldwide post-
2 pandemic economic recovery efforts; and

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been experiencing continuous threats from their
4 authoritarian neighbor, China, which has encroached on Taiwan's security by launching
5 multiple missiles and dispatching numerous aircraft and vessels into Taiwan's air defense
6 identification zone and across the Taiwan Strait median line. China has also disseminated
7 disinformation, launched cyberattacks, and repeatedly excluded Taiwan from the
8 international system as demonstrated through its denial of Taiwan's participation in the
9 United Nations system meetings, mechanisms, conventions, and activities; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2022, the United States and Taiwan saw a strengthening in bilateral
11 relations with the launch of the "U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade," which
12 facilitates a roadmap for negotiations on economic and trade agreements with high-
13 standard commitments; visits from numerous high-ranking elected officials amidst
14 China's provocation; the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023,"
15 which facilitates a defense modernization program for Taiwan to deter China's
16 aggression; and the signing of the "Taiwan-U.S. Memorandum of Understanding on
17 Development and Humanitarian Assistance Cooperation," which highlights that Taiwan
18 is a significant stakeholder globally; and

19 WHEREAS, in June 2023, the United States and Taiwan signed the first agreement
20 under the "US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade," covering customs and border
21 procedures, regulatory practices, and small business; and

22 WHEREAS, as a formal member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
23 (APEC) since 1991, Taiwan continues to make great contributions and is an
24 indispensable key partner to the welfare of the people in the Asia-Pacific region;

25 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

1 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives encourages the members of this body
2 to join the Taiwan Caucus in urging the Commonwealth of Kentucky to establish a trade
3 office in Taiwan, as North Carolina, South Carolina, Arizona, Virginia, West Virginia,
4 and Pennsylvania have recently done. The establishment of a trade office in Taiwan will
5 attract more investments in Taiwan and the Commonwealth and enable the
6 Commonwealth's officials and General Assembly members to conduct more frequent
7 exchanges with their Taiwanese counterparts.

8 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives supports the "US-Taiwan Initiative on
9 21st-Century Trade" and the negotiations on the Bilateral Trade Agreement as Taiwanese
10 companies are looking for diverse and free markets in the United States instead of China,
11 and further supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations and
12 mechanisms such as the World Health Organization, United Nations Framework
13 Convention on Climate Change, International Civil Aviation Organization, International
14 Criminal Police Organization, Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-
15 Pacific Partnership, and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity.

16 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
17 copy of this Resolution to Governor Andy Beshear, Secretary of State Michael G.
18 Adams, the Kentucky Congressional Delegation, and Mr. Elliot Wang, Director-General
19 of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Georgia.