**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO 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 UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AS WELL AS OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO EXTEND THE MOST SINCERE BEST WISHES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON BEHALF OF THIS STATE FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND SUCCESS.

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 of 2016, Taiwan held its sixth 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. In 2012, President Ma Ying‑jeou proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative, which calls upon the parties concerned to resolve disputes peacefully and engage in joint development of resources. In May 2015, President Ma proposed the South China Sea Peace Initiative, which calls for the parties concerned to exercise restraint from taking unilateral actions that could escalate tensions, to respect international law, and to solve disputes through dialogue and in a peaceful manner in order to maintain free and safe passage for ships and flights on and over the South China Sea; and

Whereas, Taiwan and mainland China signed the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010. United States 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. In November 2015, President Ma and mainland Chinese leader Xi Jinping met in Singapore, agreeing to joint consolidation of cross‑strait peace and prosperity; and

Whereas, since 1981, the State of South Carolina and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial sister‑state relations, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year; and

Whereas, Taiwan is the United States’ tenth‑largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan’s second‑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, South Carolina welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a United States‑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 South Carolina 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:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, 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 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as other international organizations, and extend their most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Huei‑Yuan “Steven” Tai, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Georgia.

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