**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Whereas, in March of 2008, Taiwan held its fourth direct presidential election and witnessed a peaceful transition of political power, paving the way for Taiwan to serve as a beacon of democracy to Asia and beyond; and

Whereas, Taiwan and the United States are long‑standing allies who both deeply cherish the values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

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

Whereas, Taiwan is the United States’ ninth‑largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan’s third‑largest trading partner; and

Whereas, today, the government of Taiwan has committed itself to achieving peace and co‑prosperity with mainland China; and

Whereas, Taiwan is an active member in the international community, with a long history of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, commend the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its relations with the United States and for other purposes.

Be it further resolved that the members of this body commend and support the democratization efforts of the Republic of China (Taiwan), as well as Taiwan’s meaningful participation in the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Be it further resolved that the members of this body hereby welcome all opportunities to develop the special sister‑state bond between South Carolina and Taiwan, and encourage further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of South Carolina and Taiwan.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Larry R.L. Tseng, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.

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