**A** **HOUSE 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, 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, the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement between Taiwan and mainland China went into effect in September of 2010. 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, 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 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), as well as other international organizations.

Be it further resolved that the members of this body hereby welcome all opportunities, such as resuming meetings of the U.S.‑Taiwan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and Taiwan’s inclusion in the United States’ Visa Waiver Program, to enhance 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 Ms. Anna A. Kao, director general of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.

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