**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND AND SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIZATION EFFORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND THE NATION’S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, AND THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AS WELL AS OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO EXTEND SINCERE BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND SUCCESS.

Whereas, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States are longstanding allies that deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

Whereas, in 2016, the Republic of China (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. Tsai Ing‑wen was elected the fourteenth president of Taiwan, becoming the first female president in the country’s history, and, along with her vice president, Chen Chien‑jen, she hopes to continue to build the country’s already rich tradition of economic vitality, cultural growth, and innovation; and

Whereas, Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia‑Pacific region in the continuation of stability and growth. Taiwan and mainland China have signed more than twenty agreements in the past decade. U.S. 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; 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’ ninth‑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 toward drawing Taiwanese travelers who choose the United States as their destination for trade, investment, and sightseeing. The MOU of Reciprocal Driver’s License also benefits bilateral relations between Taiwan and South Carolina; and

Whereas, by working together with Taiwan, South Carolina welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a U.S.‑Taiwan Bilateral Investment Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement, both of these being created for the purpose of enhancing the special sister‑state bond between South Carolina and Taiwan and encouraging 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 Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, commend and support the democratization efforts of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the nation’s meaningful participation in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the UN Framework Convention on climate change, as well as other international organizations, and extend sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Vincent Liu, director general of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.

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