



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: McMillin

A HOUSE RESOLUTION congratulating the Republic of China (Taiwan) on its inclusion in the United States Visa Waiver Program, supporting Taiwan's efforts to secure entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), to achieve greater regional economic integration, reaffirming support for increasing Taiwan's international space, and for strengthening and expanding sister-state ties between Indiana and Taiwan.

Whereas, The Republic of China (Taiwan), having marked its centennial in 2011 and entering its second century in 2012 as the world's 19th largest economy, has achieved economic and social stability, and in the last two decades has been lauded as a beacon of democracy for Asia, has dramatically improved its record on human rights, and has taken great steps forward to enter the world arena as a trusted partner;

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Whereas, Last fall, Taiwan gained membership in the United States Visa Waiver Program and, beginning November 1, 2012, became the 37th country to receive visa-free travel privileges to the United States and only the fifth Asian country with visa-free status, behind Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Brunei;

Whereas, As a result, more Taiwanese will come to the United States for business and tourism, increasing spending of tourist dollars and facilitating business, trade, and investment in the United States, thus contributing to the United States and local economies and strengthening bilateral relations and ties with the individual states, including Indiana;

Whereas, In 2011, Taiwan ranked as the United States' 10th largest trading partner in the world, serving as the United States' 15th largest export market overall, and the sixth largest market for U.S. agricultural goods, as well as the 21st largest market for Indiana goods, worth \$218.2 million in 2011, an increase of 11% above Indiana's exports to Taiwan in 2010, and its imports of such goods continues to contribute to Indiana's economy since the September 2011 visit of the Taiwan Agricultural Goodwill Mission to the United States, which included a delegation visit to Marion County and signing of Letters of Intent for Indiana-grown corn and soybeans through 2013;

Whereas, The Taiwan government has undertaken a policy of "flexible diplomacy" in its international relations and a pragmatic approach to China, having completed a number of cross-strait liberalization measures, including regular, direct passenger flights between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait and the negotiation and passage in 2010 of a landmark free-trade agreement with China and other goodwill measures, resulting in reciprocal gestures and rapprochement between Taipei and Beijing;

Whereas, The United States and Taiwan have recently resumed bilateral talks under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), which may eventually lead to a possible United States-Taiwan Free Trade Agreement;



Whereas, Since 2001, aviation safety has become a major global concern; and

Whereas, Taiwan is a key air transport hub in the Asia-Pacific region, with more than one million flights passing through the Taipei Flight Information Region, and has one of the world's largest airports by cargo volume, Taoyuan International Airport, yet Taiwan is not a member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO): Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
2 congratulates the Republic of China (Taiwan) on gaining inclusion in
3 the United States Visa Waiver Program as of November 1, 2012, and
4 supports Taiwan's efforts to secure entry into the Trans-Pacific
5 Partnership (TPP), along with the United States and other friendly
6 Asia-Pacific Rim countries.
- 7 SECTION 2. That the Indiana House of Representatives promotes
8 bilateral investment and trade relations with the United States, and
9 reaffirms its support for the participation of Taiwan in the International
10 Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other international
11 organizations to increase Taiwan's international space and contribution
12 to the global community, and support for strengthening Indiana-Taiwan
13 sister-state relations, friendship, and exchanges between our state and
14 Taiwan.
- 15 SECTION 3. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
16 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to United States
17 Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary General Raymond Benjamin
18 of the ICAO, President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of China
19 (Taiwan), and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago,
20 Illinois.

