

HOUSE RESOLUTION 141

By Brooks H

A RESOLUTION to commend Taiwan for its relations with the United States.

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 2012, Taiwan held its fifth direct presidential election, which demonstrated the strength and vitality of its democratic system, cementing Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in Asia; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation of stability and growth. Taiwan and mainland China signed the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010, which enables U.S. businesses to collaborate with innovative Taiwanese companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights, and use Taiwan as a springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian markets; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the State of Tennessee 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' eleventh-largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's third-largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, the addition of Taiwan into the United States' Visa Waiver Program is a significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan, and encourage them to choose the United States as their destination for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Tennessee welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a U.S.-Taiwan Bilateral Investment

Agreement, a Free Trade Agreement, and the inclusion of Taiwan in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, in order to enhance the special sister-state bond between Tennessee and Taiwan, and to encourage further cultural, educational, and commercial 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 OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that the members of this body commend the democratization efforts of 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 to them our most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Steven Huei-Yuan Tai, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.