

House Resolution No. 6012

By Representatives Todd and Merrick

2-10

1 A RESOLUTION endorsing the twenty-sixth anniversary of sister state
2 relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan), Taiwan's participation
3 in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the United Nations
4 Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Taiwan's
5 participation as an observer in the International Civil Aviation
6 Organization (ICAO).

7 WHEREAS, On November 14, 1989, the State of Kansas and the
8 Republic of China (Taiwan) entered into a sister state relationship of
9 enduring friendship and international cooperation; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the past twenty-six years, the bonds of true
11 friendship and steadfast trade partnership between Kansas and Taiwan
12 have been strengthened, resulting in tourism and a strong economic,
13 social and cultural exchange; and

14 WHEREAS, Every other year, Taiwan has sent an agricultural trade
15 goodwill mission to the U.S. Midwest region, including Kansas, to
16 demonstrate Taiwan's continuing goodwill and willingness to purchase
17 Kansas agricultural products. The Kansas agricultural industry has
18 benefited greatly over the past decades from the sale of beef, wheat and
19 corn to Taiwan; and

20 WHEREAS, Kansas and Taiwan have enjoyed a long and mutually
21 beneficial relationship and anticipate continuing growth. Taiwan ranks as
22 Kansas' 12th largest export destination with \$194.5 million worth of
23 Kansas goods shipped to Taiwan; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan's third largest trading
25 partner. Taiwan is the tenth largest trading partner of the United States
26 with bilateral trade reaching \$63.6 billion; and

27 WHEREAS, The Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA)
28 meeting between the United States and Taiwan is laying the groundwork
29 for a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA). Negotiation for a BIA is an
30 important step toward further strengthening bilateral trade and paving the
31 way for entering into a free trade agreement between the United States
32 and Taiwan, thereby increasing the exports of Kansas to Taiwan and
33 creating bilateral investment through tariff reduction and other trade
34 facilitation measures; and

35 WHEREAS, Taiwan, seeking to contribute to greater regional
36 integration in the Asia-Pacific region and promote bilateral investment

1 and trade relations with the United States, applauds the United States'
2 announcement of its intent not only to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership
3 (TPP), but to expand TPP membership in the future to include other
4 countries, such as the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the TPP would contribute
6 substantially to the depth, viability, and quality of the TPP. Taiwan's
7 strong economic weight in the Asia-Pacific and the world, its well-
8 developed knowledge base and highly skilled workforce, its vital position
9 along regional supply chains and value chains and the positive economic
10 and strategic gains for all make Taiwan an ideal candidate economy for
11 the TPP's expansion; and

12 WHEREAS, Taiwan's absence from the United Nations Framework
13 Convention on Climate Change has hampered Taiwan's ability to
14 participate in global climate initiatives and respond to natural disasters.
15 Taiwan can be a valuable and constructive partner in the international
16 response to the adverse effects of climate change and severe weather
17 emergencies, as evidenced by Taiwan's speedy and generous response to
18 aid the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, which included
19 donations of approximately \$12.22 million; and

20 WHEREAS, The development of international civil aviation in a safe
21 and orderly manner is the supreme cause of the International Civil
22 Aviation Organization (ICAO). The ICAO depends to a great extent on
23 multilateral cooperation to achieve the goals of safety, order and
24 sustainable development; and

25 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an integral part of the global aviation network.
26 With an excellent geographic location, Taiwan is a key aviation hub for
27 regions in Asia and the world; and

28 WHEREAS, Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport is ranked 16th
29 globally in international passenger traffic by the Airports Council
30 International (ACI), and 58 domestic and foreign airlines connect Taiwan
31 with 117 cities across the world. The Taipei Flight Information Region
32 (FIR) each year provides more than 1.3 million navigation services to
33 aircraft carrying 45 million passengers and over 1.68 million tons of
34 cargo. The large volume of cargo and passenger traffic make Taiwan an
35 important part of the global air transport network; and

36 WHEREAS, Without Taiwan's participation, international flight plans,
37 regulations and procedures that the ICAO formulates will be incomplete
38 and unsafe; and

39 WHEREAS, Taiwan's request to participate in the ICAO is fully in
40 line with the United States government's policy of supporting Taiwan's
41 meaningful participation in United Nations specialized agencies: Now,
42 therefore,

43 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:*

1 (1) That Kansas is celebrating the twenty-sixth anniversary of sister
2 state relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

3 (2) Kansas supports Taiwan's efforts to secure entry into the Trans-
4 Pacific Partnership (TPP), and endorses the signing of the Bilateral
5 Investment Agreement (BIA) with the United States; and

6 (3) Kansas supports Taiwan's appropriate participation in the United
7 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and
8 endorses Taiwan's participation as an observer in the International Civil
9 Aviation Organization (ICAO).

10 *Be it further resolved:* That copies of this resolution are sent to the
11 United States Secretary of State, John F. Kerry, President Ma Ying-jeou
12 of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Secretary General Raymond
13 Benjamin of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Executive
14 Secretary Christiana Figueres of the United Nations Framework
15 Convention on Climate Change, each member of the Kansas
16 Congressional Delegation and Director General Jack J.C. Yang of the
17 Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.