

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1711

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Taiwan, seeking to contribute to greater regional integration in the Asia-Pacific region and promote bilateral investment and trade relations with the United States, applauds the United States' announcement of its intent not only to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), but to expand TPP membership in the future to include other countries, such as the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:*

- (1) That Kansas is celebrating the twenty-sixth anniversary of sister state relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan); and
- (2) Kansas supports Taiwan's efforts to secure entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and endorses the signing of the Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) with the United States; and
- (3) Kansas supports Taiwan's appropriate participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and endorses Taiwan's participation as an observer in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); and

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

Senate Resolution No. 1711 was sponsored by Senator Larry R. Powell.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*