

By: Senator Salmon

## SENATE RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND AND ENCOURAGE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF TAIWAN AND THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; TO SUPPORT TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES VISA WAIVER PROGRAM; AND SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION AND UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

### Subtitle

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TAIWAN AND ARKANSAS AND TO SUPPORT TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE U.S. VISA WAIVER PROGRAM AND THE INT'L CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION AND U.N. FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) is a full-fledged democracy characterized by stability and social order, and Taiwan is the world's twenty-third largest economy, seventeenth largest exporter, eighteenth largest importer, and the fifth largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, with over \$391 billion; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan engage in robust bilateral trade, and the United States ranks as Taiwan's third largest trading partner, and



Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on average, 580,000 people from Taiwan visit the United States each year and Taiwan's national carriers, China Airlines and EVA Air, currently each have 23 to 24 flights destined for the United States weekly, carrying more than 5,000 passengers daily for business, tourism, study, observation, friends, and family visits; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan citizens routinely obtain various visas to the United States and return to Taiwan as scheduled, and Taiwan citizens present few, if any, crime or public security issues while in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the rejection rate of United States visa applications of Taiwan citizens was only 2.2%, well below the 3% requirement for the United States Visa Waiver Program; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has extended visa waivers to the United States since 1993, and there are more than 100 nations or areas currently granting Taiwan citizens visa waivers, including the European Union, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Canada, and the United States Island Territory of Guam, and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is recognized as a nation with exemplary economic and environmental progress, including substantial progress in the aviation industry; and

WHEREAS, great advantages would result in Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and

WHEREAS, Director General Daniel Liao will be making a visit to Arkansas to explore economic development and educational opportunities between Taiwan and Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Arkansas Senate:

(1) Supports Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(2) Welcomes Taiwan's nomination to the United States Visa Waiver Program;

(3) Urges the United States Department of Homeland Security to facilitate the evaluation of Taiwan's homeland security and security immigration systems to facilitate Taiwan's formal membership to the United States Visa Waiver Program;

(4) Continues to encourage the sister-state relationship between Arkansas and Taiwan initially formed in 1983; and

(5) Welcomes Director General Daniel Liao during his upcoming visit to Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to Mr. Daniel Liao, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston by the Secretary of the Senate.