

By: Senator J. English

## SENATE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND  
THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

### Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TAIWAN AND THE  
STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE  
OF ARKANSAS:

WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) engage in robust bilateral trade and investment, Taiwan is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest U.S. trading partner, the largest per capita importer of U.S. agricultural products, and Arkansas's 6<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner in Asia; the Arkansas economy, whose agribusiness continues to be one of its most leading industries, is poised to benefit from economic partnership with Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) remains a beacon of democracy and the only full-fledged democracy in the Chinese-speaking world, and a general election in Taiwan was held on January 16, 2016 in which Dr. Ing-wen Tsai, the chairwoman of the Democratic Progressive Party, was elected as the first female President; and

WHEREAS, President-elect Tsai, who is an expert on trade and took part



in the Taiwan-US bilateral trade negotiations and was a major negotiator for Taiwan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2002, is familiar with, and concerned about, mutual interests between Taiwan and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of an Arkansas Trade Office in Taipei could facilitate investment and trade and advance the sister-state tie between Taiwan and Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the United States and the State of Arkansas will benefit from closer economic relationships with Taiwan by negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA) and a bilateral investment agreement (BIA) and by the U.S. support of Taiwan's membership in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); and

WHEREAS, the Business Roundtable's study shows that America's FTA partners purchased ten and one tenths (10.1) times more goods per capita from Arkansas than did non-FTA countries; international trade supports more than three hundred twenty-five thousand (325,000) Arkansas jobs; trade and investment liberalization policies save the average Arkansas family of four (4) more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per year; and

WHEREAS, given the important role Taiwan plays in global aviation security, to include Taiwan as a participant in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) would help develop a global strategy to address aviation security threats; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has passed a landmark Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act to cut carbon emissions to fifty percent (50%) of 2005 levels by 2050 and announced its INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution) committing itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by fifty percent (50%) from the current, business-as-usual level by 2030, which shows that accommodating Taiwan's participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) would help complete the global efforts against Climate Change; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's exclusion from the International Criminal Police

Organization (INTERPOL) only serves to degrade international security at a time when international criminal and terrorist organizations are more sophisticated and more dangerous than they have ever been, and the support of the United States for Taiwan's inclusion as an observer would help close a potentially dangerous loophole that could be exploited by international criminals, and would enable Taiwan to both access and contribute to INTERPOL's database of criminals and criminal activities,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the SENATE:

(1) Presents heartfelt congratulations to President-elect Ing-wen Tsai for her election and admiration for the Taiwanese people for showing their commitment to democracy; and

(2) Encourages the sister-state relationship between the State of Arkansas and the country of Taiwan as well as the sister-city relationship between Little Rock and Kaohsiung City initially formed in 1983; and

(3) Supports the establishment of an Arkansas Trade Office in Taipei; and

(4) Encourages closer economic relationships between Taiwan and the United States through the negotiation of an FTA, BIA, and Taiwan's membership in the TPP; and

(5) Supports Taiwan's participation in the ICAO, UNFCCC and INTERPOL; and

(6) Commends Mr. Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston for his efforts and contributions toward enhancing cooperation between Taiwan and Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to Mr. Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas, by the Chief Clerk of the SENATE.