

1 SJR61
2 174648-1
3 By Senators Smitherman, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Blackwell,
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman-Madison, Dial, Dunn,
5 Figures, Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston,
6 Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders,
7 Sanford, Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 10-MAR-16

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8 COMMENDING TAIWAN FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED
9 STATES.

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11 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are
12 long-standing allies who both deeply cherish the common values
13 of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

14 WHEREAS, in the year 2016, Taiwan held its sixth
15 direct presidential election and again demonstrated the
16 strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way
17 for Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and

18 WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the
19 Asia-Pacific region in the continuation of stability and
20 growth. In 2012, President Ma Ying-jeou proposed the East
21 China Sea Peace Initiative, which calls upon the parties
22 concerned to resolve disputes peacefully and engage in joint
23 development of resources; and

24 WHEREAS, in May 2015, President Ma proposed the
25 South China Sea Peace Initiative, which calls for the parties
26 concerned to exercise restraint from taking unilateral actions
27 that could escalate tensions, respect international law, and

1 solve disputes through dialogue and in a peaceful manner to
2 maintain free and safe passage for ships and flights on and
3 over the South China Sea; and

4 WHEREAS, Taiwan and mainland China signed the
5 Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010;
6 United States businesses can collaborate with innovative
7 Taiwanese companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of
8 intellectual property rights, and then use Taiwan as a
9 springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian
10 markets; and

11 WHEREAS, in November 2015, President Ma and mainland
12 Chinese leaders Xi Jinping met in Singapore, agreeing to
13 jointly consolidate Cross-Strait peace and prosperity; and

14 WHEREAS, since 1983, the State of Alabama and Taiwan
15 have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial
16 sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to
17 strengthen with each passing year; Taiwan is the United
18 States' tenth largest trading partner and the United States is
19 Taiwan's second largest trading partner; and

20 WHEREAS, the designation of Taiwan into the United
21 States' Visa Waiver Program is a significant step to draw
22 travelers from Taiwan into choosing the United States as their
23 destination for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

24 WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Alabama
25 welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic
26 partnership, such as the signing of a United States-Taiwan
27 Bilateral Investment Agreement, a Free Trade Agreement, and

1 the inclusion of Taiwan in the Trans-Pacific Partnership in
2 order to enhance the special sister-state bond between Alabama
3 and Taiwan and to encourage further cultural, educational, and
4 business exchanges between the citizens of both nations; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the
6 international community with a long history of commitment to
7 international health and humanitarian aid as well as
8 environmental protection; now therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the members of this body
11 commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and
12 the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health
13 Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization,
14 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,
15 as well as other international organizations, and we extend
16 our most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and
17 success.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the
19 Senate is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate
20 copy of this resolution to Mr. Huei-Yuan (Steven) Tai,
21 Director General of the Taipei Economic and Culture Office in
22 Atlanta.