

1 SJR7  
2 147869-1  
3 By Senators Smitherman, Allen, Beasley, Beason, Bedford,  
4 Blackwell, Brewbaker, Bussman, Coleman, Dial, Dunn, Fielding,  
5 Figures, Glover, Holley, Holtzclaw, Irons, Keahey, Marsh,  
6 McGill, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Scofield,  
7 Singleton, Smith, Taylor, Waggoner, Ward, Whatley, and  
8 Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 06-FEB-13

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

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11 WHEREAS, in the year of 2012, Taiwan held its fifth  
12 direct presidential election and again demonstrated the  
13 strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way  
14 for Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and

15 WHEREAS, under President Ma Ying-jeou's  
16 administration, Taiwan has committed to achieving peace and  
17 co-prosperity with mainland China since 2008, and serves the  
18 best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation  
19 of stability and growth; and

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

23 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama and Taiwan have  
24 enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial sister-state  
25 relations since 1983, a friendship that continues to  
26 strengthen with each passing year; and

1           WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' tenth-largest  
2 trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's  
3 third-largest trading partner; and

4           WHEREAS, with the designation of Taiwan into the  
5 United States' Visa Waiver Program taking effect in November  
6 of 2012, Taiwan passport holders may now visit the United  
7 States for business or tourism for stays up to 90 days without  
8 obtaining a visa, which is a significant step to draw  
9 travelers from Taiwan choosing the United States as their  
10 destination for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

11           WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the  
12 international community with a long history of commitment to  
13 international health and humanitarian aid as well as  
14 environmental protection; now therefore,

15           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the members of this body  
17 commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and  
18 the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health  
19 Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization,  
20 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,  
21 as well as other international organizations.

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body welcomes all  
23 opportunities for an even closer economic partnership with  
24 Taiwan, such as the signing of a United States-Taiwan  
25 Bilateral Investment Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement, and  
26 the inclusion of Taiwan in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, to  
27 enhance the special 30th anniversary sister-state bond between

1 Alabama and Taiwan, and encourages further cultural,  
2 educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of  
3 Alabama and Taiwan.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of  
5 this resolution be transmitted to Ms. Anna A. Kao, Director  
6 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta,  
7 Georgia.