

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

HR 1004

4
5 By: Representative C. Fite

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO COMMEND TAIWAN AND THE STATE OF ARKANSAS FOR THEIR
9 SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP AND TO ENCOURAGE ITS
10 FURTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 TO COMMEND TAIWAN AND THE STATE OF
15 ARKANSAS FOR THEIR SISTER-STATE
16 RELATIONSHIP AND TO ENCOURAGE ITS FURTHER
17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

18
19 WHEREAS, the Republic of China, commonly known as "Taiwan", is a full-
20 fledged democracy characterized by stability and social order; and Taiwan is
21 the world's 21st largest economy, 20th largest exporter, 18th largest
22 importer, and the 5th largest holder of foreign exchange reserves with over
23 \$426 billion; and

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25 WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 32nd anniversary of the sister-state
26 relationship between Taiwan and Arkansas, as well as the 32nd anniversary of
27 the sister-city relationship between the City of Kaohsiung and the City of
28 Little Rock; and

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30 WHEREAS, on average, 425,000 people from Taiwan visit the United States
31 each year, and Taiwan's national carriers, China Airlines and EVA Air,
32 currently have over 70 flights destined for the United States weekly,
33 carrying more than 5,000 passengers daily for business, tourism, study and
34 observation, and visits to friends and family; and

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36 WHEREAS, in May 2014, the Department of Finance and Administration and



1 Taiwan streamlined the exchange of valid noncommercial driver's licenses for
2 an Arkansas applicant in Taiwan and an applicant from Taiwan living in the
3 State of Arkansas; and

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5 WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of
6 Finance and Administration and Taiwan acknowledges and permits a mutual
7 recognition of driver's licenses; and the Memorandum of Understanding
8 requires adherence to state and federal privacy laws with regard to any
9 information obtained when exchanging a driver's license, including the
10 Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. § 2721 et seq., and
11 personal information protection laws; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and the Taipei
14 Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas, desire to establish an
15 Arkansas Trade Office in Taipei in 2015; and this office would facilitate
16 investment and trade opportunities between the State of Arkansas and Taiwan
17 and further strengthen the relationship between the State of Arkansas and
18 Taiwan; and

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20 WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan engage in robust bilateral trade;
21 and the United States ranks as Taiwan's 3rd largest trading partner, and
22 Taiwan is the 10th largest trading partner of the United States; and

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24 WHEREAS, Taiwan is a member of the World Trade Organization and the
25 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum seeking to promote free trade and
26 economic cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region; and

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28 WHEREAS, a bilateral free trade agreement between Taiwan and the United
29 States and a regional free trade agreement that includes Taiwan would
30 substantially reduce or eliminate most import quotas, duties, and other trade
31 barriers and expand market opportunities for the State of Arkansas and the
32 entire United States; and

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34 WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a proposed trade agreement to
35 enhance trade and investment among member countries and to promote
36 innovation, economic growth and development, and the creation and retention

1 of jobs; and

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3 WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership represents a high-standard,
4 ambitious, comprehensive, and forward-looking pathway for achieving an
5 eventual free trade area within the Asia-Pacific region; and

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7 WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the Trans-Pacific Partnership could
8 result in an overall economic gain of nearly \$78 billion in social welfare
9 for the United States and other member countries; and

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11 WHEREAS, the United States and the State of Arkansas will benefit from
12 closer economic relationships with Taiwan by negotiating a free trade
13 agreement and a bilateral investment agreement between Taiwan and the United
14 States and by supporting Taiwan's membership in the Trans-Pacific
15 Partnership,

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17 NOW THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 THAT the House of Representatives:

22 (1) Encourages the sister-state relationship between the State
23 of Arkansas and Taiwan initially formed in 1983;

24 (2) Recognizes the May 2014 Memorandum of Understanding between
25 Taiwan, through the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, and the
26 Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration regarding the mutual
27 recognition of driver's licenses;

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

30 (4) Encourages closer economic relationships between Taiwan and
31 the United States through negotiation of a free trade agreement, bilateral
32 investment agreement (BIA), and Taiwan's membership in the Trans-Pacific
33 Partnership (TPP); and

34 (5) Supports Taiwan's participation in the International Civil
35 Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on
36 Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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