

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

SR 7

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5 By: Senator J. Woods

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7 **SENATE 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.

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20 WHEREAS, the Republic of China, commonly known as "Taiwan", is a full-  
21 fledged democracy characterized by stability and social order; and Taiwan is  
22 the world's 21st largest economy, 20th largest exporter, 18th largest  
23 importer, and the 5th largest holder of foreign exchange reserves with over  
24 \$426 billion; and

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

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



1           WHEREAS, in May 2014, the Department of Finance and Administration and  
2 Taiwan streamlined the exchange of valid noncommercial driver's licenses for  
3 an Arkansas applicant in Taiwan and an applicant from Taiwan living in the  
4 State of Arkansas; and

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

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

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

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

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

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35           WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a proposed trade agreement to  
36 enhance trade and investment among member countries and to promote

1 innovation, economic growth and development, and the creation and retention  
2 of jobs; and

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

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

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

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18 NOW THEREFORE,  
19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE  
20 OF ARKANSAS:

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22 THAT the Senate:
- 23 (1) Encourages the sister-state relationship between the State  
24 of Arkansas and Taiwan initially formed in 1983;
  - 25 (2) Recognizes the May 2014 Memorandum of Understanding between  
26 Taiwan, through the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, and the  
27 Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration regarding the mutual  
28 recognition of driver’s licenses;
  - 29 (3) Supports the establishment of an Arkansas Trade Office in  
30 Taipei;
  - 31 (4) Encourages closer economic relationships between Taiwan and  
32 the United States through negotiation of a free trade agreement, bilateral  
33 investment agreement (BIA), and Taiwan’s membership in the Trans-Pacific  
34 Partnership (TPP); and
  - 35 (5) Supports Taiwan’s participation in the International Civil  
36 Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on

1 Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an  
4 appropriate copy shall be provided to Mr. Louis Min-Jing Huang, Director  
5 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas, by the  
6 Secretary of the Senate.

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