

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-19

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 19, 2019

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and to support strengthening and expanding ties between the District of Columbia and Taiwan.

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States have enjoyed longstanding partnership and share the common values of freedom, democracy, and human rights;

WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act (“TRA”) was signed into law on April 10, 1979, codifying the historically close relations with Taiwan that had existed before January 1, 1979, and serves as the foundation to preserve and promote continued bilateral bonds;

WHEREAS, in 1982, President Ronald Reagan further clarified the importance and resilience of the US-Taiwan relationship with the issuance of the Six Assurances, which together with the TRA are the cornerstones of U.S. policy with respect to Taiwan;

WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan have forged ever closer economic and security relations over the last 4 decades based on their shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and free market principles; with United States now Taiwan’s second-largest trading partner and second-largest destination of Taiwan outward investment; and with Taiwan the 11th largest trading partner of the United States and a key destination for United States agricultural exports;

WHEREAS, in the 2017-18 academic year, 22,454 students from Taiwan studied in the U.S., making Taiwan the seventh-leading place of origin for students coming to the U.S. and contributed more than \$824 million to the U.S. economy, through their spending on tuition, accommodation, and living expenses;

WHEREAS, in 2019, Taiwan ranked as second-freest country in Asia by Freedom House, and ranked 10th among 180 world economies in terms of economic freedom by the Heritage Foundation, demonstrating the strength and vitality of its democratic system and showcasing Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in the world;

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WHEREAS, Taiwan has been proven to be a very valuable contributor in a broad range of global issues and is necessary to be granted access to meaningfully participate in various international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the International Criminal Police Organization;

WHEREAS, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (“TECRO”), led by Representative Stanley Kao with support from Deputy Representative Christine Hsueh and Deputy Representative Louis Huang, is the Republic of China's principal representative office in the United States;

WHEREAS, TECRO in the United States is responsible for maintaining and developing bilateral relations between Taiwan and the United States, and oversees 11 offices known as Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices, or TECOs, in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle; and

WHEREAS, April 19, 2019 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, which helps maintain peace, security, and stability in Asia and promotes the foreign policy of the United States.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Taiwan Relations Act 40th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and supports strengthening and expanding ties between the District of Columbia and Taiwan.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.