

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1021

 By: Cockroft

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8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Resolution relating to relationships between the
10 State of Oklahoma and the Republic of China (Taiwan);
11 making findings; commending signature on certain
12 joint statement; celebrating 37th anniversary of
13 sister-state relationship; commending Mr. Louis M.
14 Huang; and directing distribution.

15 WHEREAS, for decades the United States and the Republic of China
16 (Taiwan) have fostered a close relationship that has been of mutual
17 economic, cultural, and strategic benefit; and

18 WHEREAS, bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan
19 reached \$65.3 billion in 2016, making Taiwan the 10th largest
20 trading partner of the United States as well as the largest per
21 capita importer of United States agricultural products; and

22 WHEREAS, Taiwan maintains biennial agricultural procurement
23 missions to the United States to sign multi-billion dollar supply
24 deals and has been actively dispatching a substantial delegation to
 participate in the SelectUSA Investment Summit since 2013; and

1 WHEREAS, United States exports to Taiwan, combined with Taiwan's
2 investment in the United States, support over 330,000 well-paid
3 United States jobs, and both nations could realize further economic
4 gains through the establishment of a free trade agreement (FTA) as
5 well as by enhancing the platforms of Trade and Investment Framework
6 Agreement (TIFA) and Digital Economy Forum (DEF); and

7 WHEREAS, Taiwan remains a beacon of democracy as well as the
8 only full-fledged democracy in the Chinese-speaking world; and

9 WHEREAS, the results of Taiwan's 2016 presidential election,
10 which marked both the third peaceful transition of political power
11 since the first popular vote for President held in 1996 and the
12 first transition of its national legislative majority since 1949,
13 serve as proof that Taiwan is a worthy member candidate for the
14 Communities of Democracies (CD); and

15 WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 has continued to be
16 the cornerstone of relations between the United States and Taiwan
17 for 38 years, both countries have further affirmed that Taiwan is an
18 important and enduring economic and security partner through working
19 in a mutually beneficial partnership to address global challenges in
20 such areas as international humanitarian assistance, and public
21 health and technology under the Global Cooperation and Training
22 Framework (GCTF) established in June 2015; and

23 WHEREAS, travel from Taiwan to the United States has increased
24 by more than fifty percent (50%) since the announcement of Taiwan's

1 participation in the United States Visa Waiver Program in 2012, EVA
2 Air launched their direct Taipei-Houston route in 2015, the United
3 States and Taiwan signed a joint statement on an International
4 Expedited Traveler Initiative in 2016, all significant efforts which
5 will promote tourism and encourage exchanges between the two
6 peoples; and

7 WHEREAS, Taiwan acts as a natural hub to other Asian
8 destinations, with Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration
9 providing services for nearly 1.53 million controlled flights
10 carrying 58 million incoming and outgoing passengers annually and;

11 WHEREAS, nontraditional security threats are increasing in the
12 21st century, the meaningful participation and inclusion of Taiwan,
13 the 22nd largest economy in the world, to the International Criminal
14 Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Civil Aviation
15 Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Framework Convention on
16 Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the World Health Assembly (WHA) would
17 be beneficial to all nations and their people; and

18 WHEREAS, this year marks the 37th anniversary of the sister-
19 state relationship between Oklahoma and Taiwan, a bond nurtured
20 through mutually beneficial exchanges: 1,319 jobs in Oklahoma are
21 supported by Taiwan-affiliated companies, Oklahoma exported \$23.2
22 million in goods to Taiwan in 2016, making Taiwan the 9th largest
23 export market for Oklahoma in Asia.

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

3 THAT, Oklahoma encourages closer economic relationships between
4 the United States and Taiwan by negotiating a free trade agreement
5 between the two countries.

6 THAT, Oklahoma commends the signing of a joint statement on an
7 International Expedited Traveler Initiative between the United
8 States and Taiwan which encourages tourism.

9 THAT Oklahoma supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in the
10 INTERPOL, ICAO, UNFCCC, and WHA.

11 THAT Oklahoma celebrates the 37th anniversary of the sister-state
12 relationship between the State of Oklahoma and Taiwan.

13 THAT Oklahoma commends Mr. Louis M. Huang, Director General of
14 the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas, for
15 efforts and contributions toward enhancing cooperation between
16 Taiwan and Oklahoma.

17 THAT copies of this resolution be furnished to Mr. Louis M.
18 Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
19 in Houston, Texas, and to the members of the press.

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21 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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