

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 19

By: Schulz

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution encouraging closer economic
8 relationships between the United States and Taiwan by
9 negotiating a FTA; commending the signing of an
10 International Expedited Traveler Initiative;
11 celebrating the 37th anniversary of the sister-state
12 relationship between the State of Oklahoma and
13 Taiwan; commending Mr. Louis M. Huang for efforts and
14 contributions; 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 U.S. and Taiwan reached
19 \$65.3 billion in 2016, making Taiwan the 10th largest trading
20 partner of the U.S. as well as the largest per capita importer of
21 U.S. agricultural products; and

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

1 WHEREAS, U.S. exports to Taiwan, combined with Taiwan's
2 investment in the U.S., support over 330,000 well-paid U.S. jobs,
3 and both nations could realize further economic gains through the
4 establishment of a free trade agreement (FTA) as well as by
5 enhancing the platforms of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement
6 (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, the
9 results of Taiwan's 2016 presidential election, which marked both
10 the third peaceful transition of political power since the first
11 popular vote for President held in 1996 and the first transition of
12 its national legislative majority since 1949, serve as proof that
13 Taiwan is a worthy member candidate for the Communities of
14 Democracies (CD); and

15 WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 has continued to be
16 the cornerstone of relations between the U.S. and Taiwan for 38
17 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, public health
21 and technology under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework
22 (GCTF) established in June 2015; and

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

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

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

10 WHEREAS, this year marks the 37th anniversary of the sister-
11 state relationship between Oklahoma and Taiwan, a bond nurtured
12 through mutually beneficial exchanges: 1,319 jobs in Oklahoma are
13 supported by Taiwan affiliated companies, Oklahoma exported 23.2
14 million in goods to Taiwan in 2016, making Taiwan the 9th largest
15 export market for Oklahoma in Asia.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
17 OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

18 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate encourages closer economic
19 relationships between the United States and Taiwan by negotiating a
20 FTA between the two countries.

21 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the signing of a joint
22 statement on an International Expedited Traveler Initiative between
23 the United States and Taiwan which encourages tourism.

24

1 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate celebrates the 37th anniversary
2 of the sister-state relationship between the State of Oklahoma and
3 Taiwan.

4 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends Mr. Louis M. Huang,
5 Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
6 Houston, for efforts and contributions toward enhancing cooperation
7 between Taiwan and Oklahoma.

8 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Mr. Louis M.
9 Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
10 in Houston, Texas.

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