

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 91

By Bell

A RESOLUTION to commend Taiwan for its relations with the United States of America.

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States of America are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, in the year of 2016, Taiwan held its sixth direct presidential election and again demonstrated the strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way for Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; Tsai Ing-wen was elected as the fourteenth President of Taiwan, becoming the first female president in the country's history, and along with her Vice President Chen Chien-jen, she hopes to continue to build the country's already rich tradition of economic vitality, cultural growth, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation of stability and growth. Taiwan and mainland China have signed more than twenty agreements in the past decade. U.S. businesses can collaborate with innovative Taiwanese companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights, and then use Taiwan as a springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian markets; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the State of Tennessee and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Taiwan into the United States' Visa Waiver Program is a significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan choosing the United States as their destination for

trade, investment, and sightseeing; the MOU of Reciprocal Driver's License also benefit bilateral relations between Taiwan and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Tennessee welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a US-Taiwan Bilateral Investment Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement in order to enhance the special sister-state bond between Tennessee and Taiwan and to encourage further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of both nations; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community, with a long history of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental protection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful participation in many international organizations, and extend to them our most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to Mr. Steven Tai, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Georgia.