

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 10

House resolution reaffirming the friendship between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the State of Vermont; supporting the strengthening of the bilateral economic relationships between Taiwan and the United States and between Taiwan and the State of Vermont; and supporting the Republic of China's participation in international organizations

Offered by: Representatives Young of Glover and Kupersmith of South Burlington

Whereas, Taiwan, the United States, and the State of Vermont share common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and a commitment to a free market economy, and

Whereas, President Ma Ying-jeou of Taiwan has worked tirelessly to uphold democratic principles in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's 23 million people, promote Taiwan's international standing, and further improve relations between the United States and Taiwan, and

Whereas, Taiwan and the United States, and especially Taiwan and the State of Vermont, share historically close relationships marked by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural exchanges, scientific and technological interests, and tourism, and

Whereas, as of November 1, 2012, Taiwan is a member of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, reflecting the friendship, trust, and cooperation shared between our two countries and making business and travel between Taiwan and the United States even more convenient, and

Whereas, the United States is Taiwan's third largest trading partner and Taiwan is the tenth largest trading partner of the United States, and

Whereas, trade between the United States and Taiwan reached \$85 billion in 2011, and

Whereas, New England exported approximately \$1.4 billion in goods to Taiwan, and approximately \$202 million of New England's exports to Taiwan originated in Vermont, and

Whereas, negotiations for a bilateral investment agreement between Taiwan and the United States are important for strengthening bilateral trade and as a foundation for the establishment of a free trade agreement that would create even greater economic opportunities for Taiwan, the United States, and Vermont, and

Whereas, Taiwan is the 17th largest trading economy in the world and a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which promotes free trade and economic cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region, and

Whereas, in November 2011, President Barack Obama and the leaders of the other eight Trans-Pacific Partnership countries announced the broad outlines for a new economic agreement, and Taiwan has expressed a strong interest in participating in partnership activities, and

Whereas, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international forum addressing climate change, and Taiwan has expressed a strong desire to participate in this Convention, and

Whereas, Taiwan is an important international transportation hub in the Asia-Pacific region as the Taipei Flight Information Region, which is under Taiwan's jurisdiction, covers an area of 176,000 square nautical miles with 1.35 million annual controlled flights, and it is in the interest of the traveling public that Taiwan be included in the International Civil Aviation Organization, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body reaffirms its support for strong bilateral relationships between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States and between Taiwan and the State of Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body supports the establishment of a bilateral investment agreement and a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body supports Taiwan's participation in international organizations, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the International Civil Aviation Organization, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama, Governor Peter Shumlin, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, and to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.