



RESOLUTION #EX2018-01

RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE SUBSTANTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States are long-standing friends with a shared historical relationship and the dearly cherished values of freedom, democracy, human rights and rule of law; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has become a multiparty democracy in which all citizens have the right to participate freely in the political process, as evidenced by Taiwan's six direct presidential elections, which took place in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 11th-largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade in goods and services reaching close to \$90 billion in 2017, and the 7th-largest export destination for U.S. agricultural products, creating more than 350,000 jobs in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, in order to strengthen the bilateral trade and economic relations with the United States, the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has expressed its wish to sign a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has been proven to be a valuable contributor in a broad range of global issues and the United States has supported Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA) as an observer, and will continue supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation and substantive contributions to other international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); and

WHEREAS, since President Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016, over half of the 50 state legislatures have passed resolutions in support of Taiwan's efforts to secure the signing of a bilateral trade agreement with the United States as well as Taiwan's meaningful participation and positive contributions to international organizations; and

Senator James Seward, NY, *Co-Chair*
Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, NY, *Co-Chair*
Wendell M. Hannaford, *Director*

Connecticut • Delaware • Maine • Maryland
Massachusetts • New Brunswick • New Hampshire
New Jersey • New York • Nova Scotia • Ontario
Pennsylvania • Prince Edward Island • Puerto Rico
Québec • Rhode Island • U.S. Virgin Islands • Vermont



Eastern Regional Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference member states (ERC), which include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have a long-standing friendly relationship with Taiwan; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ERC member jurisdictions noted above support the development of an even closer economic relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the United States Secretary of State and Office of the United States Trade Representative.