



EAST

RESOLUTION # EX 2021 - 01

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

Whereas, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States enjoy a strong, long-standing relationship and share dearly cherished values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and rule of law; and

Whereas, the U.S. Congress passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) in 1979 to sustain a close bilateral relationship as well as to advance mutual security and commercial interests between the United States and Taiwan, and the TRA, together with the Six Assurances stipulated by President Ronald Reagan in 1982, have served as the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations, helping to preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; and

Whereas, Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade in goods and services reaching \$90.9 billion in 2020, and the eighth largest export destination for U.S. agricultural products; and

Whereas, the Republic of China (Taiwan) welcomed the U.S.-Taiwan 11th Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council Meeting in June 2021, which helps strengthen supply chain cooperation in industries ranging from semi-conductors to electric vehicles to vaccines, and paves the way for commencing negotiations for signing a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA); and

Whereas, to promote business between different regions of the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan), U.S. state governments have established representative offices in Taiwan to address states' respective needs to facilitate business, investment, education, and tourism; and each state is encouraged to establish representative offices in Taiwan to strengthen bilateral trade and economic relations; and

Whereas, Taiwan has proven to be a valuable contributor on a wide range of global issues, and the United States has supported Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO), and it will continue to support Taiwan's meaningful participation and substantive contributions to other international organizations such as the

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Hon. Ted Arnott, Speaker, Ontario, *Chair*

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Sen. Lou D'Allesandro, New Hampshire, *Co-Vice Chair*

David N. Biette, *Director*



International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); and

Whereas, last year in 2020, the United States and Taiwan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on health cooperation to strengthen ongoing collaboration on global health security, control of infectious diseases, and the development of drugs and vaccines intended to fight COVID-19, and to prevent future international health crises through continued cooperation; and

Whereas, Taiwan has signed mutual driver's license recognition agreements with 35 U.S. states (including seven CSG East member states) since 2013, and more than 16,000 U.S. and Taiwanese citizens have benefitted from the aforementioned agreements; and it encourages other member states to enter a driver's license reciprocity agreement with Taiwan to increase the mobility of international students, people in business, and academics; and

Whereas, the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference (CSG East) member states and territories, 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 and friendly relationship with Taiwan.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the aforementioned CSG East member jurisdictions support the development of an even closer economic relationship, and more people-to-people exchanges between the United States and Taiwan; and

Be It Further Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the U.S. Secretary of State and the Office of the United States Trade Representative.