

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION congratulating Taiwan on its inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program effective November 1, 2012; supporting Taiwan's efforts to secure entry to the Trans-Pacific Partnership and to achieve greater regional economic integration; and reaffirming support for increasing Taiwan's international profile and for strengthening and expanding sister-state ties between Indiana and Taiwan.

WATERMAN

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION congratulating Taiwan on its
2 inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program effective November
3 1, 2012; supporting Taiwan's efforts to secure entry to the
4 Trans-Pacific Partnership and to achieve greater regional
5 economic integration; and reaffirming support for increasing
6 Taiwan's international profile and for strengthening and
7 expanding sister-state ties between Indiana and Taiwan.

8 *Whereas, Taiwan, having marked its centennial in 2011*
9 *and entering its second century in 2012 as the world's 19th-*
10 *largest economy, has achieved economic and social stability,*
11 *and in the last two decades been lauded as a beacon of*
12 *democracy for Asia, has dramatically improved its record on*
13 *human rights, and taken great steps forward to enter the world*
14 *arena as a trusted partner;*

15 *Whereas, Last fall Taiwan gained membership in the U.S.*
16 *Visa Waiver Program and, beginning November 1, 2012,*
17 *became the 37th place to receive visa-free travel privileges to*
18 *the United States and only the 5th Asian country with visa-free*
19 *status, behind Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Brunei; as*
20 *a result, more Taiwanese will come to the United States for*
21 *business and tourism, increasing spending of tourist dollars*



1 *and facilitating business, trade and investment in the United*
2 *States, thus contributing to the U.S. and local economies and*
3 *strengthening bilateral relations and ties with the individual*
4 *states, including Indiana;*

5 *Whereas, Taiwan in 2011 ranks as the United States' 10th*
6 *largest trading partner in the world. Taiwan serves as the*
7 *United States' 15th largest export market overall, and the 6th*
8 *largest market for U.S. agricultural goods, as well as the 21st*
9 *largest market for Indiana goods, worth USD\$218.2 million in*
10 *2011, an increase of 11 percent above Indiana's exports to*
11 *Taiwan in 2010. Its imports of such goods continues to*
12 *contribute to Indiana's economy since the September 2011 visit*
13 *of the Taiwan Agricultural Goodwill Mission to the United*
14 *States. The mission included a delegation visit to Marion*
15 *County and signing of Letters of Intent for the purchase of*
16 *Indiana-grown corn and soybeans through 2013;*

17 *Whereas, The Taiwan government has undertaken a policy*
18 *of "flexible diplomacy" in its international relations and a*
19 *pragmatic approach to China. Taiwan has completed a number*
20 *of cross-strait liberalization measures, including regular, direct*
21 *passenger flights between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait;*
22 *and the negotiation and passage in 2010 of a landmark free-*
23 *trade agreement with China, and other goodwill measures*
24 *resulting in reciprocal gestures and rapprochement between*
25 *Taipei and Beijing;*

26 *Whereas, The United States and Taiwan have recently*
27 *resumed bilateral talks under the Trade and Investment*
28 *Framework Agreement, which may eventually lead to a possible*
29 *United States-Taiwan free trade agreement; and*

30 *Whereas, Aviation safety has become a major global*
31 *concern since 2001. Taiwan is a key air transport hub in the*
32 *Asia-Pacific region, with more than one million flights passing*
33 *through the Taipei Flight Information Region; and has one of*
34 *the world's largest airports by cargo volume, Taoyuan*



1 *International Airport; yet Taiwan is not a member of the*
2 *International Civil Aviation Organization: Therefore,*

3 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
4 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

5 SECTION 1. The Indiana Senate congratulates Taiwan on gaining
6 inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program as of November 1, 2012 and
7 supports Taiwan's efforts to secure entry to the Trans-Pacific
8 Partnership and to promote bilateral investment and trade relations with
9 the United States.

10 SECTION 2. The Indiana Senate reaffirms its support for the
11 participation of Taiwan in the International Civil Aviation Organization
12 (ICAO) and other international organizations to increase Taiwan's
13 international profile and contribution to the global community, and
14 support for strengthening Taiwan-Indiana sister-state relations,
15 friendship, and exchanges between our two sides.

16 SECTION 3. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
17 send a copy of this Resolution to the United States Secretary of State
18 John Kerry; Secretary General Raymond Benjamin of the ICAO;
19 President of Taiwan Ma Ying-jeou; and the Taipei Economic and
20 Cultural Office in Chicago, Illinois.

