

A RESOLUTION commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States.

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

WHEREAS, in 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 14th 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; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Taiwan and mainland China signed the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, enabling United States businesses to collaborate with innovative Taiwanese companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights, and to then use Taiwan as a springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian markets; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, President Ma Ying-jeou proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative, which calls upon the parties concerned to resolve disputes peacefully and engage in joint development of resources; and

WHEREAS, in May 2015, President Ma proposed the South China Sea Peace Initiative, which calls for the parties concerned to respect international law, exercise restraint from taking unilateral actions that could escalate tensions, solve disputes through dialogue, and, in a peaceful manner, to maintain free and safe passage for ships and flights on and over the South China Sea; and

WHEREAS, in November 2015, President Ma and mainland Chinese leader Xi Jinping met in Singapore, agreeing to jointly consider cross-strait peace and prosperity;

and

WHEREAS, since 1982, the Commonwealth of Kentucky 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' tenth-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; and

WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Kentucky welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic partnership; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) Agricultural and Trade Mission of 2015 signed memorandums of understanding with Kentucky to purchase soybeans and corn in 2016 and 2017; 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 General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The members of the Senate commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as other international organizations, and extend their most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Mr. Huei-Yuan (Steven) Tai, Director General of the Taipei Economic and

Cultural Office, 1180 West Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.