

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 37

By: Yen

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the
8 Sister-State relationship between Oklahoma and
9 Taiwan; and directing distribution.

10
11 WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan share an important
12 relationship that is supported by our common values of freedom,
13 democracy, rule of law, and a commitment to a free market economy;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma and Taiwan initiated a Sister-
16 State Agreement on July 25, 1980, have enjoyed the benefits of the
17 bonds of friendship and goodwill since that time, and now prepare to
18 celebrate their 35th anniversary in 2015; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States ranks as Taiwan's third largest
20 trading partner and Taiwan is the 10th largest trading partner of
21 the U.S. Bilateral trade in goods and services between the U.S. and
22 Taiwan reached \$63 billion in 2012; and

23 WHEREAS, negotiations for a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)
24 between Taiwan and the U.S. are an important step towards

1 strengthening bilateral trade and paving the way for entering into a
2 Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between our countries, thereby increasing
3 Oklahoma's exports to Taiwan and creating greater bilateral
4 investment and technical collaboration through tariff reduction and
5 trade facilitation measures; and

6 WHEREAS, the U.S. and the eight other Trans-Pacific Partnership
7 (TPP) countries announced the achievement of the broad outlines for
8 a 21st century TPP agreement on November 12, 2011, and Taiwan has
9 expressed a keen interest in participating so as to forge close
10 links among economies, enhance competitiveness, and benefit
11 consumers; and

12 WHEREAS, Steve Hsia assumed his post as Director General of the
13 Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston on March 27, 2013,
14 and he graciously visited the Oklahoma State Senate; and

15 WHEREAS, Taiwan is now a member of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program
16 (effective November 1, 2012), reflecting the friendship, trust, and
17 cooperation shared between our two countries, and making travel
18 between Taiwan and Oklahoma for business and tourism even more
19 convenient; and

20 WHEREAS, Taiwan is recognized as a nation with exemplary
21 economic and environmental progress, including substantial progress
22 in the aviation industry for many years; and great advantages would
23 result in Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation
24 Organization (ICAO).

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
2 OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

3 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate celebrates the 35th anniversary of
4 the Sister-State relationship between Oklahoma and Taiwan.

5 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Honorable
6 Director General Steve Hsia.

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