

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 999

By Littleton

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Taiwan for its relations with the United States of America.

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States of America are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation of stability and growth; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Taiwan held its seventh direct presidential election and once again demonstrated the strength and vitality of its robust democratic system, paving the way for Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and

WHEREAS, we congratulate Dr. Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election as the 15th President of Taiwan; along with her Vice President Lai Ching-te, she hopes to continue to build the country's already rich tradition of economic vitality, cultural growth, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, foreign investment in Tennessee is important for job creation and growth within this State; Taiwanese companies such as Quanta Computers, Stamtec, SEYI America, Sharp Manufacturing Co., Sinbon Technologies, Wei-Chuan, Yang-Ming America, and KHS America have made substantial investments in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner; in 2018, Tennessee's exports to Taiwan reached \$206.5 million; Taiwan is Tennessee's eighth-largest export market in Asia; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the State of Tennessee and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year; by working together with Taiwan, Tennessee welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic and higher educational partnership, such as signing a U.S.-Taiwan

Bilateral Investment Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement, as well as embodying public institutions to provide educational or fee concession programs to mutually enhance the special (fortieth anniversary) sister-state bond on further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of both nations; and

WHEREAS, the Taiwan Travel Act is an act of the United States Congress passed on February 28, 2018, and signed into law on March 16, 2018, to encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels; it is a follow-up to the Taiwan Relations Act, signed by the United States Congress forty years ago in 1979; 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; the MOU of Reciprocal Driver's License also benefits bilateral relations between Taiwan and Tennessee; 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Taiwan on its democratization efforts and meaningful participation in many international organizations and extend our most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Georgia.