
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8005

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Delvin, Ericksen, Kastama, Honeyford, Chase, Nelson, Roach, Pridemore, Swecker, Sheldon, Harper, Rockefeller, Hobbs, Haugen, Becker, Fraser, Kline, Hatfield, Conway, Holmquist Newbry, Benton, Morton, Hargrove, Ranker, McAuliffe, and White

Read first time 02/04/11. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

1 TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE:
2 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
3 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
4 represent and petition as follows:

5 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State has officially
6 affirmed its support for the participation of the Republic of China
7 (Taiwan) as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on
8 Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in the International Civil Aviation
9 Organization (ICAO); and

10 WHEREAS, Legislative bodies in the states of Alabama, Florida,
11 Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine,
12 Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South
13 Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia have
14 affirmed their support for the participation of the Republic of China
15 (Taiwan) as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on
16 Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in the International Civil Aviation
17 Organization (ICAO); and

18 WHEREAS, The state of Washington and Taiwan have enjoyed a long and
19 mutually beneficial relationship with the prospect of further growth,
20 and that Taiwan was Washington's 5th largest export market in 2010; and

1 WHEREAS, Climate change has become a major global issue confronting
2 humanity in the 21st century; and

3 WHEREAS, Global climate change seriously affects the sustainable
4 development and welfare of Taiwan's 23 million people; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan was devastated by Typhoon Morakot on August 8,
6 2009, causing severe loss of life and property; and

7 WHEREAS, The UNFCCC preamble acknowledges that the global nature of
8 climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all
9 countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate
10 response; and

11 WHEREAS, For political reasons, Taiwan has long been excluded from
12 the United Nations affiliated UNFCCC and related mechanisms; and

13 WHEREAS, Taiwan is unable to access UNFCCC resources such as the
14 international disaster early warning system, and is vulnerable to
15 climate change; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the 2009 Key World Energy statistics released
17 by the International Energy Agency (IEA), Taiwan ranks as the 22nd
18 largest emitter of carbon dioxide and the 18th largest per capita; and

19 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the world's 26th largest economy and 18th
20 largest trading country; and

21 WHEREAS, Taiwan has the means and incentive to assume its due
22 responsibilities in the fight against global climate change; and

23 WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the UNFCCC as an observer will
24 enable that nation to make valuable contributions to the international
25 community; and

26 WHEREAS, For political reasons, Taiwan has also long been barred
27 from participation in the United Nations affiliated International Civil
28 Aviation Organization (ICAO) and related mechanisms; and

29 WHEREAS, Taiwan has no access to timely information released by
30 ICAO on topics such as air flight route planning, air traffic flow
31 management, beacon codes, and airspace control; and

32 WHEREAS, Taiwan is a key air transport hub that links Northeast and
33 Southeast Asia with around 2,600 weekly flights to and from neighboring
34 countries; and

35 WHEREAS, The Taipei Flight Information Region (Taipei FIR) under
36 Taiwan's jurisdiction covers 176,000 square nautical miles, services 12
37 international and 4 domestic routes, and has 1.35 million controlled
38 flights pass through every year; and

1 WHEREAS, Some 174,000 international flights carrying over 35
2 million passengers arrived in and departed from Taiwan in 2008; and

3 WHEREAS, According to 2008 statistics, Airports Council
4 International ranked Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport as the
5 world's 11th largest airport by international cargo volume and 19th in
6 terms of international passenger services; and

7 WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the ICAO as an observer will ensure
8 the aviation safety of passengers from both Taiwan and abroad; and

9 WHEREAS, In April 2009, Taiwan's Health Minister was invited by the
10 Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) to lead a
11 delegation to attend the 62nd World Health Assembly (WHA) as an
12 observer, setting a precedent for Taiwan's participation in United
13 Nations specialized agencies;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
15 Legislature support the participation of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
16 as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
17 Change (UNFCCC) and in the International Civil Aviation Organization
18 (ICAO).

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
20 transmitted to the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural
21 Office in Seattle.

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