

By Senator Bullard

39-02577-16

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution expressing appreciation for the sister-
3 state relationship and bilateral economic and cultural
4 ties between Florida and Taiwan and reaffirming the
5 commitment of the State of Florida to the strong and
6 deepening relationship with Taiwan, as the two embrace
7 the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, and the
8 protection of human rights.

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10 WHEREAS, the people of Taiwan, officially known as the
11 Republic of China, elected their new president on January 16,
12 2016, by popular vote, further enhancing the roots of democracy
13 within the island, which strengthen the common values it shares
14 with the United States, and

15 WHEREAS, April 10, 2016, marks the 37th anniversary of the
16 enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, which maintains peace,
17 security, and stability in the Western Pacific and promotes the
18 foreign policy of the United States by authorizing the
19 continuation of commercial, cultural, and other relations
20 between the people of the United States and the people of
21 Taiwan, and

22 WHEREAS, Taiwan is one of the allies in the East Asian
23 region which the United States continues to provide with
24 defensive weaponry, including naval vessels, equipment, and
25 munitions, creating job opportunities in this country and
26 helping Taiwan maintain its defensive capabilities in the
27 region, and

28 WHEREAS, President Ma Yin-jeou's East China Sea Initiative
29 and South China Sea Peace Initiative and the Taiwanese code of
30 conduct, each of which recognizes the conflicting territorial
31 viewpoints of the interested parties, call upon all parties to
32 resolve their regional disputes peacefully and share resources

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33 in accordance with international law, which is consistent with
34 the security and economic interests of the United States in East
35 and Southeast Asia, and

36 WHEREAS, the United States supports Taiwan's meaningful
37 participation in and cooperation with more than 50 international
38 organizations, including its bid for attendance in the
39 International Criminal Police Organization, specifically,
40 Taiwan's recent active participation in the International Civil
41 Aviation Organization Assembly and its membership in both the
42 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the World Trade
43 Organization, and

44 WHEREAS, support for Taiwan's continued economic growth and
45 prosperity is important to the interests of the United States,
46 especially with regard to Taiwan's bid to join the Trans-Pacific
47 Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership,
48 which will further expand Taiwan's participation in the global
49 market, increase equal competition with member states, and
50 prevent economic marginalization, and

51 WHEREAS, Taiwan was the United States' 10th largest two-way
52 trade partner in 2014, and

53 WHEREAS, with respect to Taiwan's contributions in the
54 global market by both its traditional and innovative industries,
55 support for continued bilateral talks under the Trade and
56 Investment Framework Agreement and the establishment of a
57 Bilateral Investment Agreement with the United States will
58 further globalize Taiwan's economy and eliminate trade barriers,
59 thus solidifying Taiwan as a robust and trustworthy partner to
60 the United States for trade and security in the East Asian
61 region, NOW, THEREFORE,

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63 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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65 That the significance of the relationship and shared
66 interests between the people of Taiwan and the United States is
67 recognized, as is the importance of supporting future
68 opportunities for international trade developments with Taiwan
69 to further strengthen the substantive relationship between
70 Florida and Taiwan.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate welcomes the
72 initiatives of the Taiwanese government to maintain peace in the
73 East China Sea and the South China Sea and to promote trade with
74 the United States and this state.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
76 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Taipei
77 Economic and Cultural Office in Miami and to the Executive
78 Office of the Governor of this state as a tangible token of the
79 sentiments of the Florida Senate.