

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

4 HOUSE CONCURRENT
5 RESOLUTION 1013

By: Trebilcock

6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Concurrent Resolution endorsing the proposition
9 that Taiwan join the United States Visa Waiver
10 Program; and directing distribution.

11 WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) is a full-fledged
12 democracy characterized by stability and social order, and Taiwan is
13 the world's twenty-sixth largest economy, seventeenth largest
14 exporter, eighteenth largest importer, and the fifth largest holder
15 of foreign exchange reserves, with over \$391 billion; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan engage in robust bilateral
17 trade, and the United States ranks as Taiwan's third largest trading
18 partner, and Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner of the
19 United States; and

20 WHEREAS, on average, 580,000 people from Taiwan visit the United
21 States each year and Taiwan's national carriers, China Airlines and
22 EVA Air, currently each have 23 to 24 flights destined for the
23 United States weekly, carrying more than 5,000 passengers daily for

1 business, tourism, study, observation, friends, and family visits;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan citizens routinely obtain various visas to the
4 United States and return to Taiwan as scheduled, and Taiwan citizens
5 present few, if any, crime or public security issues while in the
6 United States; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2010, the rejection rate of United States visa
8 applications of Taiwan citizens was only 2.2%, well below the 3%
9 requirement for the United States Visa Waiver Program; and

10 WHEREAS, Taiwan has extended visa waivers to the United States
11 since 1993, and there are more than 100 nations or areas currently
12 granting Taiwan citizens visa waivers, including the European Union,
13 the United Kingdom, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Canada,
14 and the United States Island Territory of Guam.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
16 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
17 CONCURRING THEREIN:

18 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature does hereby endorse the
19 proposition that Taiwan join the United States Visa Waiver Program.

20 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Edward Chen,
21 Director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston.

22
23 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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