STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1064 By: Moore

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution presenting congratulations to President-elect Tsai and expressing admiration to the Taiwanese people; encouraging closer economic relationships between Taiwan and the United States; supporting Taiwan's participation in certain organizations; celebrating certain anniversaries; commending Louis M. Huang for efforts and contributions; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) engage in robust bilateral trade, Taiwan is the 9th largest United States trading partner, the largest per capita importer of United States agricultural products, and Oklahoma's 9th largest trading partner in Asia; the transportation, computer and electronics industries as well as many other sectors important to the Oklahoma economy are poised to benefit from economic partnership with Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, agribusiness continues to be one of the leading industries in Oklahoma, and Taiwan is a leading importer of

United States agricultural goods, regularly dispatching agricultural procurement missions to the United States to sign multi-billion dollar supply deals every two years; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) remains a beacon of democracy and the only full-fledged democracy in the Chinese-speaking world, and a general election in Taiwan was held on January 16, 2016, in which Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, the chairwoman of the Democratic Progressive Party, was elected as the first female president; and

WHEREAS, President-elect Tsai, who is an expert on trade and took part in the Taiwan – United States bilateral trade negotiations and was a major negotiator for Taiwan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2002, is familiar with and concerned about mutual interests between Taiwan and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States and the State of Oklahoma will benefit from closer economic relationships with Taiwan by negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) while promoting free and fair trade; and

WHEREAS, the Business Roundtable's study shows that 54 percent of Oklahoma goods exported to the world went to America's FTA partners in 2015, international trade supported more than

401,000 of Oklahoma's jobs in 2014, and an estimated 160,000 of those jobs depend on trade with 11 other countries; and

WHEREAS, given the important role Taiwan plays in global aviation security, to include Taiwan as a participant in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) would help develop a global strategy to address aviation security threats; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's exclusion from the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) only serves to degrade international security at a time when international criminal and terrorist organizations are more sophisticated and more dangerous than they have ever been, and United States support for Taiwan's inclusion as an observer would help close a potentially dangerous loophole that could be exploited by international criminals and would enable Taiwan to both access and contribute to INTERPOL's database of criminals and criminal activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives presents heartfelt congratulations to President-elect Tsai for her election and expresses admiration to the Taiwanese people for showing their commitment to a democratically elected representative Republic.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages closer economic relationships between Taiwan and the United States by negotiating an FTA and a BIA between Taiwan and the United States.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in the ICAO, UNFCCC and INTERPOL, while safeguarding individual privacy, civil liberties and national sovereignty.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives celebrates the 36th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Oklahoma and Taiwan and the 35th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Taipei and Oklahoma City.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives commends Mr. Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, for efforts and contributions toward enhancing cooperation between Taiwan and Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Mr. Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas.

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