

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 SENATE

4 RESOLUTION 19

By: Stanislawski

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution celebrating the 33rd anniversary of the
8 Sister-State relationship between Oklahoma and
9 Taiwan; welcoming the Honorable Director General
Steve Hsia to the Oklahoma State Senate; and
directing distribution.

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12 WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan share an important
13 relationship that is supported by our common values of freedom,
14 democracy, rule of law, and a commitment to a free market economy;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma and Taiwan initiated a Sister-
17 State Agreement on July 25, 1980, have enjoyed the benefits of the
18 bonds of friendship and goodwill since that time, and now prepare to
19 celebrate their 33rd anniversary in 2013; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States ranks as Taiwan's third largest
21 trading partner and Taiwan is the 10th largest trading partner of
22 the U.S. Bilateral trade in goods and services between the U.S. and
23 Taiwan reached \$63 billion in 2012; and
24

1 WHEREAS, negotiations for a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)
2 between Taiwan and the U.S. are an important step towards
3 strengthening bilateral trade and paving the way for entering into a
4 Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between our countries, thereby increasing
5 Oklahoma's exports to Taiwan and creating greater bilateral
6 investment and technical collaboration through tariff reduction and
7 trade facilitation measures; and

8 WHEREAS, the U.S. and the eight other Trans-Pacific Partnership
9 (TPP) countries announced the achievement of the broad outlines for
10 a 21st century TPP agreement on November 12, 2011, and Taiwan has
11 expressed a keen interest in participating so as to forge close
12 links among economies, enhance competitiveness, and benefit
13 consumers; and

14 WHEREAS, Steve Hsia assumed his post as Director General of the
15 Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston on March 27, 2013,
16 and he graciously visited the Oklahoma State Senate; and

17 WHEREAS, Taiwan is now a member of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program
18 (effective November 1, 2012), reflecting the friendship, trust, and
19 cooperation shared between our two countries, and making travel
20 between Taiwan and Oklahoma for business and tourism even more
21 convenient; and

22 WHEREAS, Taiwan is recognized as a nation with exemplary
23 economic and environmental progress, including substantial progress
24 in the aviation industry for many years; and great advantages would

1 result in Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation
2 Organization (ICAO).

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
4 OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

5 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate celebrates the 33rd anniversary of
6 the Sister-State relationship between Oklahoma and Taiwan.

7 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate welcomes the Honorable Director
8 General Steve Hsia to the Oklahoma State Senate.

9 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Steve Hsia,
10 Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
11 Houston.

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