

Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 19

By: Schulz, Allen, Bass,
Bergstrom, Bice, Boggs,
Brecheen, Brown, Dahm,
Daniels, David, Dossett,
Dugger, Fields, Floyd, Fry,
Griffin, Holt, Jech, Kidd,
Leewright, Marlatt,
Matthews, McCortney,
Newberry, Newhouse, Paxton,
Pederson, Pemberton,
Pittman, Pugh, Quinn,
Rader, Scott, Sharp, Shaw,
Silk, Simpson, Smalley,
Sparks, Standridge,
Stanislowski, Sykes,
Thompson, Treat and Yen

A Resolution encouraging closer economic relationships between the United States and Taiwan by negotiating a FTA; commending the signing of an International Expedited Traveler Initiative; celebrating the 37th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between the State of Oklahoma and Taiwan; commending Mr. Louis M. Huang for efforts and contributions; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, for decades the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have fostered a close relationship that has been of mutual economic, cultural and strategic benefit; and

WHEREAS, bilateral trade between the U.S. and Taiwan reached \$65.3 billion in 2016, making Taiwan the 10th largest trading partner of the U.S. as well as the largest per capita importer of U.S. agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan maintains biennial agricultural procurement missions to the U.S. to sign multi-billion dollar supply deals and has been actively dispatching a substantial delegation to participate in the SelectUSA Investment Summit since 2013; and

WHEREAS, U.S. exports to Taiwan, combined with Taiwan's investment in the U.S., support over 330,000 well-paid U.S. jobs, and both nations could realize further economic gains through the establishment of a free trade agreement (FTA) as well as by enhancing the platforms of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) and Digital Economy Forum (DEF); and

WHEREAS, Taiwan remains a beacon of democracy as well as the only full-fledged democracy in the Chinese speaking world, the results of Taiwan's 2016 presidential election, which marked both the third peaceful transition of political power since the first popular vote for President held in 1996 and the first transition of its national legislative majority since 1949, serve as proof that Taiwan is a worthy member candidate for the Communities of Democracies (CD); and

WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 has continued to be the cornerstone of relations between the U.S. and Taiwan for 38 years, both countries have further affirmed that Taiwan is an important and enduring economic and security partner through working in a mutually beneficial partnership to address global challenges in such areas as international humanitarian assistance, public health and technology under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) established in June 2015; and

WHEREAS, travel from Taiwan to the United States has increased by more than 50 percent since the announcement of Taiwan's participation in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012, EVA Air launched their direct Taipei-Houston route in 2015, and the U.S. and Taiwan signed a joint statement on an International Expedited Traveler Initiative in 2016, all significant efforts which will promote tourism and encourage exchanges between the two peoples; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan acts as a natural hub to other Asian destinations, with Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration providing services for nearly 1.53 million controlled flights carrying 58 million incoming and outgoing passengers annually; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 37th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Oklahoma and Taiwan, a bond nurtured through mutually beneficial exchanges: 1,319 jobs in Oklahoma are supported by Taiwan affiliated companies, Oklahoma exported 23.2 million in goods to Taiwan in 2016, making Taiwan the 9th largest export market for Oklahoma in Asia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate encourages closer economic relationships between the United States and Taiwan by negotiating a FTA between the two countries.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the signing of a joint statement on an International Expedited Traveler Initiative between the United States and Taiwan which encourages tourism.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate celebrates the 37th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between the State of Oklahoma and Taiwan.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate 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.

Adopted by the Senate the 18th day of May, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20 _____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____