

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 27

By: Schulz

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution encouraging closer economic relationships between the U.S. and Taiwan; commending reciprocal U.S. and Taiwan trusted traveler programs; supporting Taiwan's participation; celebrating 38th sister-state anniversary; commending Director General and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, for decades the United States of America and the Republic of China, Taiwan have fostered a close relationship of mutual economic, cultural and strategic benefit to both parties; and

WHEREAS, bilateral trade between the U.S. and Taiwan reached 68.2 billion in 2017, making Taiwan the 11th largest trading partner of the U.S, and Taiwan's economic revitalization program, the five-plus-two innovative industries initiative, is boosting US-Taiwan exchanges and, as the core objective of Taiwan's New Southbound Policy, forging regional links with Southeast Asian nations; 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, both nations could realize further economic gains through the establishment of a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) as well as by

1 enhancing the platforms of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement
2 (TIIFA) and Digital Economy Forum (DEF); and

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan made a momentous transition to democracy
4 beginning in the late 1980s and has for years been a beacon of
5 democracy in Asia with Taiwan rated as free by Freedom House twenty
6 years in a row, an inspiring accomplishment for peace-loving nations
7 in the world; and

8 WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 continues to be the
9 cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations, contributing to continued
10 peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the US-Taiwan
11 Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) established in June
12 2015 helps address global challenges such as international
13 humanitarian assistance and public health; and

14 WHEREAS, Taiwan's participation in the Visa Waiver program (VWP)
15 since November 2012 saw travel from Taiwan to the U.S increase by
16 almost 60 percent, and, with more Americans traveling to Taiwan, the
17 U.S. and Taiwan jointly launched trusted traveler programs on the
18 5th anniversary of Taiwan joining the VWP, making Taiwan the 12th
19 partner worldwide and 3rd in East Asia to join the U.S. Global Entry
20 program; and

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

1 WHEREAS, with nontraditional security threats increasing in the
2 21st century, the meaningful participation and inclusion of Taiwan,
3 the 22nd largest economy in the world, to the International Criminal
4 Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Civil Aviation
5 Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Framework Convention on
6 Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the World Health Assembly (WHA) would
7 benefit all nations and all peoples; and

8 WHEREAS, this year marks the 38th anniversary of the sister-
9 state relationship between Oklahoma and Taiwan, a bond nurtured
10 through mutually beneficial exchanges, Oklahoma-Taiwan ties grew
11 closer with NORDAM and China Airlines signing a joint venture to
12 establish an aircraft components maintenance company in Asia.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
14 OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

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

18 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the introduction of
19 reciprocal U.S. and Taiwan trusted traveler programs, the U.S.
20 Global Entry program and the Taiwan e-Gate program, which encourages
21 two-way tourism.

22 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate supports Taiwan's meaningful
23 participation in the INTERPOL, ICAO, UNFCCC, and WHA.
24

1 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate celebrates the 38th anniversary
2 of the sister-state relationship between the State of Oklahoma and
3 Taiwan.

4 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends Mr. Peter C.Y. Chen,
5 Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
6 Houston, for efforts and contributions toward enhancing cooperation
7 between Taiwan and Oklahoma.

8 THAT a copy of this resolution be provided to Mr. Peter C.Y.
9 Chen, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
10 Houston, Texas.

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