

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 7

House resolution reaffirming the friendly bilateral relationships between Taiwan and both the United States and Vermont and the important role of Taiwan in the international community

Offered by: Representatives Ancel of Calais, Botzow of Pownal, Marcotte of Coventry, and Young of Glover

Whereas, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a most important relationship supported by our common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, a free market economy, and

Whereas, President Ma Ying-jeou has worked tirelessly to uphold democratic principles in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's 23 million people, promote Taiwan's international standing, and further improve relations between the United States and Taiwan, and

Whereas, Taiwan and the United States share the common goal of peace in the East China Sea, and Taiwan proposed an East China Sea Peace Initiative on August 5, 2012, urging all parties concerned to exercise restraint, avoid actions that could escalate confrontation in the region, shelve disputes, not abandon dialogue, and observe international law to resolve disputes in a peaceful manner, and

Whereas, the United States and Taiwan, and especially Vermont, share a historically close relationship, marked by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural exchange, scientific and technological interests, and tourism, and

Whereas, Taiwan has been a member of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program since November 1, 2012, reflecting the friendship, trust, and cooperation shared between our two countries, and making travel between Taiwan and the U.S. for business and tourism even more convenient, and

Whereas, the United States ranks as Taiwan's third largest trading partner, and Taiwan is the 10th largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade in goods and services from January to November 2014 amounting to \$61.8 billion. New England exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Taiwan of which Vermont's share was \$116 million, making Taiwan Vermont's eighth largest export market, mostly in computer and electronic products, chemicals, and electrical equipment, and

Whereas, Taiwan has attended the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly as a special guest since 2013, and it remains in the interest of the traveling public that Taiwan be included in the ICAO because Taiwan is a key transport hub in the Asia-Pacific region and the Taipei Flight Information Region under Taiwan's jurisdiction covers an area of 176,000 square nautical miles with 1.35 million controlled flights with over 40 million travelers passing through annually, and Taiwan reiterates its commitment to ICAO standards and seeks to expand its meaningful participation in the ICAO, including attending technical and regional meetings and related activities, and

Whereas, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the world's key instrument to deal with climate change and a concerted global effort to combat the challenges posed by climate change requires that Taiwan also be included in the work of the UNFCCC, and Taiwan has expressed a keen interest to participate in the global effort to address climate change; now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body reaffirms the friendship between Vermont and Taiwan, commends Taiwan's role as peacemaker in the East China Sea, supports efforts to further strengthen U.S./Vermont-Taiwan trade relations, and supports Taiwan's participation in international organizations and regional economic integration, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send copies of this resolution to President Barack Obama, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, Governor Peter Shumlin, President Ma Ying-jeou of Taiwan, and Scott Lai, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.