

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont



House Resolution

H.R. 12

House resolution supporting friendly bilateral relations between Taiwan and both the United States and the State of Vermont and Taiwan's full participation in world affairs and membership in international organizations

Offered by: Representatives Sharpe of Bristol, 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 warm relationship, based on commonly held political and economic values, and

Whereas, on January 15, 2016, democratic Taiwan elected Tsai Ing-wen as the island's first woman president, and she will be inaugurated in a peaceful transition of power in May, and

Whereas, incumbent Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou has worked tirelessly to ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's 23.4 million people and improve relations between the United States and Taiwan, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, as of November 2015, Taiwan ranked as the United States' 10th largest trading partner with year-to-date bilateral trade standing at \$61.5 billion, and as of the close of 2014, Vermont exported products worth \$93 million to Taiwan, making Taiwan the State's ninth largest export market, and

Whereas, Taiwan joined the U.S. Visa Waiver program in 2012, simplifying tourism and business travel between Taiwan and the United States, and, in 2014, one-half million Taiwanese visitors traveled to the United States, and

Whereas, Taiwan and Vermont, a sister state of Taiwan since 1999, share a strong bilateral relationship, including trade, educational and cultural exchanges, scientific and technological interests, and tourism, and

Whereas, Taiwan's proposed East China Sea and South China Sea Peace initiatives, offered in August 2012 and May 2015 respectively, reflect the American and Taiwanese shared desire to alleviate continuing international tensions in each of these nautical regions, and

Whereas, Taiwan has attended the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly as a special guest since 2013, and it remains in the interest of the traveling public that Taiwan be granted full membership, as it is a key transportation hub in the Asia-Pacific region and has jurisdiction over the geographically large Taipei Flight Information Region, and

Whereas, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted in Paris on December 12, 2015, is a major global environmental protection effort, and Taiwan desires to participate fully in this important undertaking, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body supports friendly bilateral relations between Taiwan and both the United States and the State of Vermont and Taiwan's full participation in world affairs and membership in international organizations, and be it further

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