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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND  
THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN), STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TRADE  
RELATIONS, AND SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

Introduced By: Senators Cote, Crowley, and Walaska

Date Introduced: January 30, 2013

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share an important  
2 relationship that is supported by our common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and a  
3 commitment to a free market economy; and

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

7 WHEREAS, The United States, the Republic of China (Taiwan), and, especially, the  
8 State of Rhode Island, share a historically close relationship, marked by strong bilateral trade,  
9 educational and cultural exchange, scientific and technological interests, and tourism; and

10 WHEREAS, Taiwan is now a member of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (effective  
11 November 1, 2012), reflecting the friendship, trust, and cooperation shared between our two  
12 countries, and making travel between Taiwan and the United States for business and tourism even  
13 more convenient; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan's 3rd largest trading partner and Taiwan  
15 is the 10th largest trading partner of the United States. Bilateral trade in goods and services  
16 between the United States and Taiwan reached \$85 billion in 2011. New England exported  
17 approximately \$1.4 billion in goods to Taiwan, of which Rhode Island exported approximately  
18 \$54.5 million in goods, mostly in primary metal manufacturing, miscellaneous manufactured

1 commodities, and chemicals; and

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

7 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama and the leaders of eight Trans-Pacific Partnership  
8 (TPP) countries announced the achievement of the broad outlines for a 21<sup>st</sup> century TPP  
9 agreement on November 12, 2011, and Taiwan has expressed a keen interest to participate, so as  
10 to forge close linkages among economies, enhance competitiveness, and benefit consumers; and

11 WHEREAS, The Asia-Pacific region is the largest market in the world for the United  
12 States' exports and \$1.1 billion of Rhode Island's total exports went to markets in the Asia-  
13 Pacific region. In addition, jobs supported by the exporting of Rhode Island's goods are  
14 estimated to be 10,700, with the latest data indicating that 1,435 companies exported goods from  
15 Rhode Island (2009); and

16 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 17<sup>th</sup> largest trading economy in the world and a member of the  
17 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which promotes free trade and economic  
18 cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region; and

19 WHEREAS, The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
20 is the world's key instrument to deal with climate change. A concerted global effort to combat  
21 the challenges posed by climate change requires that Taiwan also be included in the work of the  
22 UNFCCC, and Taiwan has expressed a keen interest to participate in the global effort to address  
23 this issue; and

24 WHEREAS, It remains in the interest of the traveling public that Taiwan be included in  
25 the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), since Taiwan is a key transport hub in the  
26 Asia-Pacific region and the Taipei Flight Information Region (TAIPEI FIR) under Taiwan's  
27 jurisdiction covers an area of 176,000 square nautical miles with 1.35 million controlled flights  
28 passing through the region annually; now, therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
30 hereby reaffirms the friendship between our state and the Republic of China (Taiwan); and be it  
31 further

32 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby urges the signing of a United States-Taiwan  
33 Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) and Free Trade Agreement so as to further strengthen  
34 Rhode Island-Taiwan trade relations, and supports Taiwan's participation in international

1 organizations and agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate  
2 Change, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and be  
3 it further

4           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
5 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Rhode  
6 Island Congressional Delegation, the President of the Republic of China, and the Director-  
7 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

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