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H.R. No. 2500

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The expansion of Taiwan's role in the international  
2 community will enhance the important relationship between Taiwan  
3 and the United States, which is supported by the common values of  
4 freedom, democracy, rule of law, and a commitment to a free market  
5 economy; and

6           WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan's 2nd largest  
7 trading partner, and Taiwan is the 10th largest trading partner of  
8 the United States; bilateral trade in goods between the United  
9 States and Taiwan reached \$67.4 billion in 2014, and both nations  
10 could make even greater economic gains through the establishment of  
11 a bilateral investment agreement and a free trade agreement; and

12           WHEREAS, The close and dynamic partnership between Taiwan and  
13 the United States could also be further strengthened by Taiwan's  
14 inclusion in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, as well as by Taiwan's  
15 meaningful participation as an observer in the International Civil  
16 Aviation Organization and in the United Nations Framework  
17 Convention on Climate Change; and

18           WHEREAS, Taiwan has demonstrated leadership and a commitment  
19 to advancing positive international relations through its East  
20 China Sea Peace Initiative, proposed by President Ma Ying-jeou; the  
21 initiative calls for all parties to the territorial disputes over  
22 the Diaoyutai Islands to exercise restraint, reduce tensions, work  
23 jointly and peacefully to develop the region economically, observe  
24 international law, and establish a code of conduct in the region

1 that the United States and the European Union support in principle;  
2 this initiative fosters peace and stability by encouraging  
3 political and economic cooperation and the establishment of a  
4 framework in which all parties can participate in bringing  
5 prosperity to a troubled zone; and

6 WHEREAS, On June 13, 1988, the State of Texas and Taiwan  
7 initiated a Sister State Agreement, and since that time, the  
8 resulting bonds of friendship and goodwill have benefited Texas and  
9 nurtured closer economic and cultural ties to Taiwan; Texas exports  
10 to Taiwan reached \$4.11 billion in 2014, a 1.43 percent increase  
11 from 2013; Taiwan ranks as Texas' 13th largest export market  
12 worldwide and its 5th largest export market in Asia; and

13 WHEREAS, To facilitate investment and trade opportunities,  
14 the Texas House of Representatives authorized the Office of the  
15 Governor to open a Texas trade office in Taiwan by adopting  
16 Amendment No. 29 to amend the House Committee Substitute for Senate  
17 Bill 1 in Article I on April 4, 2013; moreover, in the following  
18 year, the Texas Department of Public Safety entered into an  
19 agreement with the Taiwanese Ministry of Transportation and  
20 Communications establishing reciprocity in the issuance of  
21 driver's licenses for Texas applicants living in Taiwan and for  
22 Taiwanese applicants living in Texas; and

23 WHEREAS, The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston,  
24 guided by Director General Louis Min-Jing Huang, promotes exchanges  
25 and cooperation in trade, investment, science, technology,  
26 culture, education, and tourism; in addition, the office serves the  
27 interests of many Taiwanese citizens living and traveling in the

1 area, and it provides consular services to those in need; and

2 WHEREAS, The positive relationship long enjoyed by the United  
3 States and Taiwan contributes to the prosperity of both nations,  
4 and the Lone Star State has a strong interest in promoting even  
5 closer ties in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
7 Legislature hereby commemorate the 27th anniversary of the Sister  
8 State relationship between the State of Texas and Taiwan; and, be it  
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the Texas House of Representatives support the  
11 establishment of a Texas trade office in Taiwan and recognize the  
12 benefits to business and travel created by the June 2014 mutual  
13 agreement between the Texas Department of Public Safety and the  
14 Taiwanese Ministry of Transportation and Communications on the  
15 reciprocal issuance of driver's licenses; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Texas House of Representatives express its  
17 support for the expansion of Taiwan's role in the international  
18 community and specifically endorse the propositions that Taiwan  
19 sign a bilateral investment agreement and free trade agreement with  
20 the United States, join the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and  
21 meaningfully participate as an observer in the International Civil  
22 Aviation Organization and in the United Nations Framework  
23 Convention on Climate Change; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Texas House of Representatives commend  
25 Taiwan and President Ma Ying-jeou for the East China Sea Peace  
26 Initiative; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston as  
2 an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.