

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2016

SR 6

4
5 By: Senator J. English
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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
9 FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND
10 THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
16 AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TAIWAN AND THE
17 STATE OF ARKANSAS.
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20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE
21 OF ARKANSAS:
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23 WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) engage in
24 robust bilateral trade and investment, Taiwan is the 9th largest U.S. trading
25 partner, the largest per capita importer of U.S. agricultural products, and
26 Arkansas's 6th largest trading partner in Asia; the Arkansas economy, whose
27 agribusiness continues to be one of its most leading industries, is poised to
28 benefit from economic partnership with Taiwan; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) remains a beacon of democracy
31 and the only full-fledged democracy in the Chinese-speaking world, and a
32 general election in Taiwan was held on January 16, 2016 in which Dr. Ing-wen
33 Tsai, the chairwoman of the Democratic Progressive Party, was elected as the
34 first female President; and
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36 WHEREAS, President-elect Tsai, who is an expert on trade and took part



1 in the Taiwan-US bilateral trade negotiations and was a major negotiator for
2 Taiwan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2002, is familiar
3 with, and concerned about, mutual interests between Taiwan and the United
4 States; and

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6 WHEREAS, the establishment of an Arkansas Trade Office in Taipei could
7 facilitate investment and trade and advance the sister-state tie between
8 Taiwan and Arkansas; and

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10 WHEREAS, the United States and the State of Arkansas will benefit from
11 closer economic relationships with Taiwan by negotiating a free trade agreement
12 (FTA) and a bilateral investment agreement (BIA) and by the U.S. support of
13 Taiwan's membership in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); and

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15 WHEREAS, the Business Roundtable's study shows that America's FTA
16 partners purchased ten and one tenths (10.1) times more goods per capita from
17 Arkansas than did non-FTA countries; international trade supports more than
18 three hundred twenty-five thousand (325,000) Arkansas jobs; trade and
19 investment liberalization policies save the average Arkansas family of four
20 (4) more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per year; and

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22 WHEREAS, given the important role Taiwan plays in global aviation
23 security, to include Taiwan as a participant in the International Civil
24 Aviation Organization (ICAO) would help develop a global strategy to address
25 aviation security threats; and

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27 WHEREAS, Taiwan has passed a landmark Greenhouse Gas Reduction and
28 Management Act to cut carbon emissions to fifty percent (50%) of 2005 levels
29 by 2050 and announced its INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution)
30 committing itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by fifty percent (50%)
31 from the current, business-as-usual level by 2030, which shows that
32 accommodating Taiwan's participation in the United Nations Framework
33 Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) would help complete the global efforts
34 against Climate Change; and

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36 WHEREAS, Taiwan's exclusion from the International Criminal Police

1 Organization (INTERPOL) only serves to degrade international security at a
2 time when international criminal and terrorist organizations are more
3 sophisticated and more dangerous than they have ever been, and the support of
4 the United States for Taiwan's inclusion as an observer would help close a
5 potentially dangerous loophole that could be exploited by international
6 criminals, and would enable Taiwan to both access and contribute to
7 INTERPOL's database of criminals and criminal activities,

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9 NOW THEREFORE,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE
11 OF ARKANSAS:

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13 THAT the SENATE:

14 (1) Presents heartfelt congratulations to President-elect Ing-
15 wen Tsai for her election and admiration for the Taiwanese people for showing
16 their commitment to democracy; and

17 (2) Encourages the sister-state relationship between the State of
18 Arkansas and the country of Taiwan as well as the sister-city relationship
19 between Little Rock and Kaohsiung City initially formed in 1983; and

20 (3) Supports the establishment of an Arkansas Trade Office in
21 Taipei; and

22 (4) Encourages closer economic relationships between Taiwan and
23 the United States through the negotiation of an FTA, BIA, and Taiwan's
24 membership in the TPP; and

25 (5) Supports Taiwan's participation in the ICAO, UNFCCC and
26 INTERPOL; and

27 (6) Commends Mr. Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei
28 Economic and Cultural Office in Houston for his efforts and contributions
29 toward enhancing cooperation between Taiwan and Arkansas.

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an
32 appropriate copy shall be provided to Mr. Louis M. Huang, Director General of
33 the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas, by the Chief Clerk
34 of the SENATE.