

Senate Resolution 109 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY JOCHUM, BLACK, and WILHELM

1 A Resolution reaffirming Iowa's commitment to its
2 relationship with Taiwan and supporting Taiwan's
3 efforts to participate in the international
4 community.

5 WHEREAS, the relationship between the Republic
6 of China (Taiwan) and the United States is marked
7 by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural
8 exchange, and tourism; and

9 WHEREAS, the State of Iowa's strong relationship
10 with Taiwan is demonstrated by its sister state and
11 sister city relationships; and

12 WHEREAS, Taiwan shares with the United States
13 and the State of Iowa the common values of freedom,
14 democracy, human rights, and rule of law; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States ranks as Taiwan's third
16 largest trading partner, Taiwan is the eleventh largest
17 trading partner of the United States, and bilateral
18 trade between the two countries reached \$63 billion in
19 2012; and

20 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the State of Iowa have enjoyed
21 a long and mutually beneficial relationship and
22 anticipate continuing growth, with Taiwan ranking as
23 Iowa's 20th largest export destination in 2012, with
24 over \$92 million worth of Iowa goods shipped to Taiwan,
25 including food, machinery, chemicals, miscellaneous
26 manufactured commodities, and agricultural
27 products; and

28 WHEREAS, Taiwan, seeking to contribute to greater

1 regional integration in the Asia-Pacific region and the
2 promotion of bilateral investment and trade relations
3 with the United States, applauded the United States'
4 announcement of its intent to join the Trans-Pacific
5 Partnership (TPP), the proposed 21st century trade
6 agreement between the United States and 11 other
7 Asia-Pacific Rim countries, and also to expand TPP
8 membership in the future to include other countries,
9 such as Taiwan; and

10 WHEREAS, Taiwan should be included in regional
11 economic integration due to its status as an important
12 economic power, a dynamic market economy, and leading
13 supplier of high-tech products; and

14 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 17th largest economy, the
15 14th largest exporter, and the 16th largest importer
16 in the world and also ranks as the 17th most free
17 country in the world according to the 2014 index of
18 economic freedom, ranking 5th out of 41 economies in
19 the Asia-Pacific region; and

20 WHEREAS, negotiations for a bilateral investment
21 treaty between Taiwan and the United States are an
22 important step toward further strengthening bilateral
23 trade and paving the way for entering into a free trade
24 agreement between our two nations, thereby increasing
25 Iowa's exports to Taiwan and creating bilateral
26 investment and technical collaboration through tariff
27 reduction and other trade facilitation measures; and

28 WHEREAS, Taiwan's absence from international
29 organizations, such as the United Nations Framework
30 Convention on Climate Change, has hampered Taiwan's

1 ability to participate in global climate initiatives
2 and to respond to natural disasters such as Typhoon
3 Haiyan which caused serious damage to the Philippines
4 in November 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan can be a valuable and constructive
6 partner in the international response to the
7 adverse effects of climate change and severe weather
8 emergencies, evidenced by Taiwan's speedy and generous
9 response to aid the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the
10 Philippines with a donation of over \$10 million; NOW
11 THEREFORE,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
13 reaffirms its commitment to the strong and deepening
14 sister city and sister state relationships between
15 Taiwan and the State of Iowa; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate supports
17 Taiwan's efforts to secure entry to the Trans-Pacific
18 Partnership and endorses the signing of a bilateral
19 investment treaty with the United States; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate extends
21 its support for Taiwan's appropriate participation in
22 international organizations, such as the United Nations
23 Framework Convention on Climate Change, that impact the
24 health, safety, and well-being of Taiwan.