

1 SR92
2 165912-1
3 By Senators Smitherman, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Blackwell,
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman, Dial, Dunn, Figures,
5 Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston, Marsh,
6 McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford,
7 Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Stutts, Waggoner, Ward,
8 Whatley, and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 28-MAY-15

8 COMMENDING AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN FOR ITS
9 RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

10
11 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are
12 longstanding allies who both deeply cherish the common values
13 of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

14 WHEREAS, in the year of 2012, Taiwan held its fifth
15 direct presidential election and again demonstrated the
16 strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way
17 for Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and

18 WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the
19 Asia-Pacific region in the continuation of stability and
20 growth. On August 5, 2012, President Ma Ying-jeou proposed the
21 East China Sea Peace Initiative, called upon the parties
22 concerned to resolve the disputes peacefully and engage in
23 joint development of resources. Taiwan and mainland China also
24 signed the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in
25 2010. U.S. businesses can collaborate with innovative
26 Taiwanese companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of

1 intellectual property rights, and then use Taiwan as a
2 springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian
3 markets; and

4 WHEREAS, since 1983, the State of Alabama and Taiwan
5 have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial
6 sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to
7 strengthen with each passing year; and

8 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States'
9 eleventh-largest trading partner, and the United States is
10 Taiwan's third-largest trading partner; and

11 WHEREAS, the designation of Taiwan into the United
12 States' Visa Waiver Program is a significant step to draw
13 travelers from Taiwan choosing the United States as their
14 destination for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

15 WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Alabama
16 welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic
17 partnership, such as the signing of a US-Taiwan Bilateral
18 Investment Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement, and the
19 inclusion of Taiwan in the Trans-Pacific Partnership in order
20 to enhance the special sister-state bond between Alabama and
21 Taiwan and to encourage further cultural, educational, and
22 business exchanges between the citizens of both nations; and

23 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the
24 international community with a long history of commitment to
25 international health and humanitarian aid as well as
26 environmental protection; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we commend and express support of the democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as other international organizations, and extend our encouragement for continued cooperation and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to Mr. Steven Huei-Yuan Tai, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.