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Resolution # E-2015-01

RESOLUTION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States are long-standing friends with a shared historical relationship and the dearly cherished values of freedom, democracy, and rule of law; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is one of the United States' key trading partners, with the two-way trade volume between the United States and Taiwan reaching US\$67.4 billion in 2014, making Taiwan the United States' 10th-largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, the United States has assisted Taiwan in meaningfully participating in various international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Aviation Organization (ICAO); and

WHEREAS, in order to further strengthen the bilateral trade relations with the United States, Taiwan has expressed its wish to sign a Bilateral Investment Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement with the United States in the near future; and

WHEREAS, Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) is an important channel for dialogue on trade and investment issues between the United States and Taiwan; it not only helps to forge a closer relationship but also boosts Taiwan's chances to participate the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and

WHEREAS, the U.S jurisdictions that are members of the Eastern Regional Conference of The Council of State Governments (ERC) have a long-standing working relationship with Taiwan, and also have strong ties with Taiwan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ERC's US member jurisdictions support the development of even closer economic relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the copies of this resolution be sent to the United States Secretary of State and Office of the United States Trade Representative.

Adopted August 16, 2015 at the CSG/ERC Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum in Wilmington, Delaware