



Eastern Regional Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION # EX-1019-01

RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE SUBSTANTIVE 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, human rights, and rule of law; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has become a multiparty democracy in which all citizens have the right to participate freely in the political process, as evidenced by Taiwan's six direct presidential elections, which took place in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) in 1979 to sustain a close bilateral relationship as well as to advance mutual security and commercial interests between the United States and Taiwan, and this year marks the 40th anniversary of the TRA's enactment, and the TRA has served as the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations, helping to preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 11th-largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade in goods and services reaching \$94.5 billion in 2018, and the eighth-largest export destination for U.S. agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, in order to strengthen the bilateral trade and economic relations with the United States, the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has expressed its wish to sign a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the United States; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has been proven to be a valuable contributor in a broad range of global issues and the United States has supported Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA) as an observer, and will continue supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation and substantive contributions to other international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); and

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Sen. Joe Scarnati, *President Pro Tempore, PA, Co-Chair*
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Wendell M. Hannaford, *Director*



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WHEREAS, since President Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016, more than half of the 50 state legislatures have passed resolutions in support of Taiwan's efforts to secure the signing of a bilateral trade agreement with the United States as well as Taiwan's meaningful participation and positive contributions to international organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference member states (ERC), which include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have a long-standing friendly relationship with Taiwan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ERC member jurisdictions noted above support the development of an even closer economic relationship between the United States and Taiwan; and

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