

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6046

A RESOLUTION supporting Taiwan's participation in international trade agreements and an international climate organization and reaffirming Kansas' commitment to its relationship with Taiwan.

WHEREAS, Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China, and the United States have a relationship marked by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural exchange and tourism. Kansas and Taiwan share sister-city and sister-state relationships that are beneficial to all Taiwanese and Kansans; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan, the United States and Kansas all share the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights and rule of law; and

WHEREAS, The United States is Taiwan's third largest trading partner and Taiwan is the United States' 11th largest trading partner. Bilateral trade has reached \$63 billion; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan and Kansas have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship. Both countries anticipate continuing growth, with Taiwan ranking as Kansas' 14th largest export destination. Kansas goods worth \$128 million were shipped to Taiwan, including food, chemicals, computer and electronic products, transportation equipment and agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan seeks to contribute to greater regional integration in the Asia-Pacific region and promote bilateral investment and trade relations with the United States. Taiwan applauds the United States' announcement of its intent, not only to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the proposed 21st century trade agreement between the U.S. and 11 other Asia-Pacific rim countries, but also to expand Trans-Pacific Partnership membership in the future to include other countries, such as Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has a dynamic market economy and is the leading supplier of high-tech products. Taiwan has the 17th largest economy in the world, is the 14th largest exporter and 16th largest importer. Taiwan ranks 20th in free trade according to the 2013 Prosperity Index. Taiwan is fifth out of 41 economies in the Asia-Pacific region. As an important economic power, Taiwan should be included in regional economic integration; and

WHEREAS, Negotiations for a Bilateral Investment Agreement between Taiwan and the United States are an important step toward strengthening bilateral trade. The Bilateral Investment Agreement will pave the way for entering into a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries, thereby increasing Kansas' exports to Taiwan and creating technical collaboration through tariff reduction and other trade facilitation measures; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's absence from international organizations, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, has hampered its ability to participate in global climate initiatives and to respond to natural disasters such as Typhoon Haiyan, which caused serious damage to the Philippines in November 2013. Because Taiwan and the Philippines are geographically close and both subject to the severe effects of typhoon, Taiwan should not be excluded from this international body; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan can be a valuable and constructive partner in the international response to adverse effects of climate change and severe weather emergencies, as evidenced by Taiwan's speedy and generous response to aid the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines with donations of more than \$10 million: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we support Taiwan's efforts to secure entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership and endorse the signing of the Bilateral Investment Agreement with the United States; and

Be it further resolved: That we support Taiwan's participation in international organizations, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, that impact the health, safety and well-being of Taiwan; and

Be it further resolved: That we reaffirm Kansas' commitment to the strong and deepening sister-city and sister-state relationships between Taiwan and the state of Kansas.

House Resolution No. 6046 was sponsored by Representatives James Todd and Ray Merrick.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.