
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4009

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Hasegawa and Kenney

Read first time 02/14/11. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND TO THE DIRECTOR
3 GENERAL OF THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
6 represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State has officially
8 affirmed its support for the participation of the Republic of China
9 (Taiwan) as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on
10 Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in the International Civil Aviation
11 Organization (ICAO); and

12 WHEREAS, Legislative bodies in the states of Alabama, Florida,
13 Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine,
14 Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South
15 Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia have
16 affirmed their support for the participation of the Republic of China
17 (Taiwan) as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on
18 Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in the International Civil Aviation
19 Organization (ICAO); and

1 WHEREAS, The state of Washington and Taiwan have enjoyed a long and
2 mutually beneficial relationship with the prospect of further growth,
3 and that Taiwan was Washington's 5th largest export market in 2010; and

4 WHEREAS, Climate change has become a major global issue confronting
5 humanity in the 21st century; and

6 WHEREAS, Global climate change seriously affects the sustainable
7 development and welfare of Taiwan's 23 million people; and

8 WHEREAS, Taiwan was devastated by Typhoon Morakot on August 8,
9 2009, causing severe loss of life and property; and

10 WHEREAS, The UNFCCC preamble acknowledges that the global nature of
11 climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all
12 countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate
13 response; and

14 WHEREAS, For political reasons, Taiwan has long been excluded from
15 the United Nations affiliated UNFCCC and related mechanisms; and

16 WHEREAS, Taiwan is unable to access UNFCCC resources such as the
17 international disaster early warning system, and is vulnerable to
18 climate change; and

19 WHEREAS, According to the 2009 Key World Energy statistics released
20 by the International Energy Agency (IEA), Taiwan ranks as the 22nd
21 largest emitter of carbon dioxide and the 18th largest per capita; and

22 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the world's 26th largest economy and 18th
23 largest trading country; and

24 WHEREAS, Taiwan has the means and incentive to assume its due
25 responsibilities in the fight against global climate change; and

26 WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the UNFCCC as an observer will
27 enable that nation to make valuable contributions to the international
28 community; and

29 WHEREAS, For political reasons, Taiwan has also long been barred
30 from participation in the United Nations affiliated International Civil
31 Aviation Organization (ICAO) and related mechanisms; and

32 WHEREAS, Taiwan has no access to timely information released by
33 ICAO on topics such as air flight route planning, air traffic flow
34 management, beacon codes, and airspace control; and

35 WHEREAS, Taiwan is a key air transport hub that links Northeast and
36 Southeast Asia with around 2,600 weekly flights to and from neighboring
37 countries; and

1 WHEREAS, The Taipei Flight Information Region (Taipei FIR) under
2 Taiwan's jurisdiction covers 176,000 square nautical miles, services 12
3 international and 4 domestic routes, and has 1.35 million controlled
4 flights pass through every year; and

5 WHEREAS, Some 174,000 international flights carrying over 35
6 million passengers arrived in and departed from Taiwan in 2008; and

7 WHEREAS, According to 2008 statistics, Airports Council
8 International ranked Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport as the
9 world's 11th largest airport by international cargo volume and 19th in
10 terms of international passenger services; and

11 WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the ICAO as an observer will ensure
12 the aviation safety of passengers from both Taiwan and abroad; and

13 WHEREAS, In April 2009, Taiwan's Health Minister was invited by the
14 Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) to lead a
15 delegation to attend the 62nd World Health Assembly (WHA) as an
16 observer, setting a precedent for Taiwan's participation in United
17 Nations specialized agencies;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
19 Legislature support the participation of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
20 as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
21 Change (UNFCCC) and in the International Civil Aviation Organization
22 (ICAO).

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
24 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
25 States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Director
26 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle.

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