
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8005

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Delvin, Ericksen, Kastama, Honeyford, Chase, Nelson, Roach, Pridemore, Swecker, Sheldon, Harper, Rockefeller, Hobbs, Haugen, Becker, Fraser, Kline, Hatfield, Conway, Holmquist Newbry, Benton, Morton, Hargrove, Ranker, McAuliffe, and White

Read first time 02/04/11. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
6 TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
9 represent and petition as follows:

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

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

4 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been a top export market for Washington
5 businesses for well over a decade; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2010, Taiwan represented the fifth largest export
7 market for numerous industries based in Washington; and

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Taiwan was devastated by Typhoon Morakot on August 8,
13 2009, causing severe loss of life and property; and

14 WHEREAS, The UNFCCC preamble acknowledges that the global nature of
15 climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all
16 countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate
17 response; and

18 WHEREAS, Taiwan has long been excluded from the United Nations
19 affiliated UNFCCC and related mechanisms; and

20 WHEREAS, Taiwan is unable to access UNFCCC resources such as the
21 international disaster early warning system, and is vulnerable to
22 climate change; and

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

26 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the world's 26th largest economy and 18th
27 largest trading partner; and

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

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

33 WHEREAS, Taiwan has also long been barred from participation in the
34 United Nations affiliated International Civil Aviation Organization
35 (ICAO) and related mechanisms; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
26 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
27 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
28 United States House of Representatives, each member of Congress from
29 the state of Washington, the Secretary of the United States Department
30 of State, and the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural
31 Office in Seattle.

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