

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN MAINE AND TAIWAN, ENHANCE BILATERAL
TRADE RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND SUPPORT TAIWAN'S
INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a robust bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership and supported by our common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law and a free market economy, and our countries now enjoy the strongest relations ever; and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks as Taiwan's 2nd-largest trading partner, and Taiwan is the 8th-largest trading partner of the United States as of 2022, with United States trade in goods with Taiwan totaling an estimated \$135.5 billion in 2022, and Taiwan was the 6th-largest consumer of agricultural goods in 2022, totaling \$4.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan-Maine bilateral trade reached \$61.2 million in 2022, and Maine exported to Taiwan \$33.2 million in machinery, electric machinery and fish and other marine products, making Taiwan Maine's 18th-largest export market in the world, and a formal bilateral trade agreement between Taiwan and the United States would result in even greater Maine exports to Taiwan and create more jobs for the people of Maine; and

WHEREAS, President Tsai has expressed Taiwan's desire to reach a bilateral trade agreement with the United States, and the 116th United States Congress's Public Law 116-135, "Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019," affirms that the United States should engage in strengthening bilateral trade and economic relations with Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Maine's Department of Education and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan) entered into a memorandum of understanding to strengthen and enhance educational exchange and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a key transport hub in the Asia-Pacific region, making its inclusion in international organizations such as the World Health Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization imperative for the best interests and safety of the international community, and, in addition, Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is necessary in the global effort to combat climate change; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, support a stronger United States-Taiwan relationship under the Biden administration, including the signing of a bilateral trade agreement, encourage the further exploration of ways to strengthen and promote bilateral exchange between Maine and Taiwan, including signing a driver's license reciprocity agreement with Taiwan in the near future, and support pursuing ways to further increase trade and people-to-people exchanges; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we support Taiwan's legitimate right to participate in international organizations, agreements and mechanisms; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States, the members of the Maine Congressional Delegation, the Honorable Janet Mills, Governor of Maine, the Honorable Tsai Ing-wen, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Honorable Jonathan Sun, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, Massachusetts.