

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

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

WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a vibrant bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership, 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, President Tsai Ing-wen has worked tirelessly to ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's 23.5 million people and promote international standing and has expressed commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State, Department of Commerce and Department of Agriculture clarified United States policy regarding Taiwan in a formal letter sent to governors of all 50 states dated November 21, 2019 stating that "expanding relations with Taiwan in areas such as trade, education, investment, and tourism is fully compatible with and supports U.S. policy and can be beneficial to your state or municipality"; 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, New England exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Taiwan in 2020, of which Maine exported \$52 million in goods, mostly in computer and electronic products, fish and other marine products, machinery and chemicals, making Taiwan Maine's 12th largest export market in the world and the 7th largest export market in Asia in 2019, and Taiwan and the United States seek to increase trade and investment through a bilateral trade agreement, resulting in even greater Maine exports to Taiwan, educational and cultural exchange, scientific and technological interests and tourism; 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. In addition, Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is important to the global effort to combat climate change; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, reaffirm the friendship between Maine and the Republic of China (Taiwan), and we continue to support efforts to further strengthen United States-Taiwan and Maine-Taiwan trade and investment

relations and support Taiwan's participation in international organizations and agreements, including the World Health Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and encourage the further exploration of ways to strengthen and promote bilateral exchange between Maine and Taiwan, including the possibility of signing a driver's license reciprocity agreement with Taiwan, which would lead to a further increase in trade and people-to-people exchanges; 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 Jonathan Sun, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, Massachusetts.