STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

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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, May 20, 2025 marks the 2nd year of the Honorables Dr. Lai Ching-te as President and Bi-khim Hsiao as Vice President of Taiwan, thereby demonstrating the vibrancy of Taiwan's democracy; and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks as Taiwan's 2nd-largest trading partner, and Taiwan is the 7th-largest trading partner of the United States in 2024, with United States trade in goods with Taiwan totaling an estimated $157.8 billion, a 34.79% increase over 2023; and

WHEREAS, the government of Taiwan has expressed a desire to reach an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement with the United States, which will increase Maine exports to Taiwan, bilateral investment and jobs in Maine; and

WHEREAS, Maine and Taiwan have enjoyed a long history of vibrant bilateral relations, including trade, as evidenced by Maine-Taiwan bilateral trade amounting to $45.47 million in 2024 and Maine exports to Taiwan of $27.95 million, making Taiwan Maine's 8th-largest export market in Asia; and

WHEREAS, a reciprocal driver's license agreement between Maine and Taiwan would greatly benefit drivers from both sides, including Maine-Taiwan exchange students and business people living and working in our respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Maine's Department of Education and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan) have entered into a memorandum of understanding to strengthen and enhance kindergarten to grade 12 educational exchange and cooperation and now seek to enter into a similar memorandum of understanding for higher education; and

WHEREAS, the United States government actively encourages engagement between the people of the United States and Taiwan, especially at the state level, in terms of trade, investment, commerce, education and cultural exchanges and supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations, and United States policy toward Taiwan is guided by the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 and not United Nations Resolution 2758 (1971), which neither mentions Taiwan nor prevents Taiwan's international participation; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a reliable partner and trustworthy democratic ally, making its inclusion in international organizations such as the World Health Organization and the

International Civil Aviation Organization imperative for the best interests and safety of the international community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, support a stronger United States-Taiwan relationship under the Trump administration, including the signing of an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement with the United States, a driver's license reciprocity agreement and a memorandum of understanding on higher education 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 Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, the members of the Maine Congressional Delegation, the Honorable Janet Mills, Governor of Maine, the Honorable Lai Ching-te, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Honorable Charles Liao, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, Massachusetts.