

2015-K1131

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating Taiwan Heritage Day

WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share common ideals and a clear vision for the 21st Century, where freedom and democracy are the foundation for peace, prosperity, and progress; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has become a multiparty democracy in which all citizens have the right to participate freely in the political process, as evidenced by Taiwan's six democratic presidential elections, which took place in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to congratulate President-elect Dr. Tsai, Ing-wen and Vice President-elect Dr. Chen, Chien-jen on their victory in Taiwan's presidential election on January 16, 2016, making Dr. Tsai the first female President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in history; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is also proud to congratulate Ms. Lily L.W. Hsu, the new Ambassador and Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in New York for assuming office on January 20, 2016, as a seasoned career diplomat of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the first female Ambassador of TECO in New York; and

WHEREAS, Through cross-Strait dialogue, the establishment of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) with mainland China, and the policy of Viable Diplomacy, President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has transformed the Taiwan Strait from a major international flashpoint into an essential component of East Asian peace and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, the United States passed the Taiwan Relations Act to define the relations of the United States and Taiwan, which strongly strengthened their friendship; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Taiwan share a long-term and close

economic relationship, including \$66.6 billion in bilateral trade in 2015, making Taiwan the 9th largest trading partner of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The United States assisted Taiwan in attaining participation in the assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) since 2009, and of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 2013, and will continue supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in other international organizations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and INTERPOL; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York exported \$844 million and imported \$1.76 billion worth of products to/from Taiwan in 2014, making Taiwan the 15th largest foreign market for the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Many of the United States' top 500 companies headquartered in New York, including IBM, Pfizer, Corning, Citigroup, AIG, MetLife, JPMorgan Chase, Merrill Lynch, and New York Life, have invested in Taiwan supporting the mutually beneficial relationship for decades; and

WHEREAS, There are more than 300 Taiwanese companies that have invested in the State of New York in sectors such as computers, finance, jewelry, sporting goods, and garments; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York is home to a thriving overseas ethnic Chinese community that supports the Republic of China (Taiwan) including the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA), the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York, Inc., Buddha's Light International Association in New York, the Taiwan Center (Senior Center), Taiwanese American Association of New York, the Union of Taiwan Universities and Colleges Alumni Association and the National Women's League of the Republic of China (Taiwan), that devotes themselves to the harmony and development of the community of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Legislature held the 3rd Taiwan Heritage Day Celebration at the Legislative Office Building in Albany in April of 2015, to promote bilateral relations between New York and Taiwan, and

will hold the 4th Taiwan Heritage Day Celebration in 2016; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate Taiwan Heritage Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to President Ma, Ying-jeou of the Republic of China (Taiwan) through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York; President-elect Dr. Tsai, Ing-wen; Vice President-elect Dr. Chen, Chien-jen; and Ms. Lily L. W. Hsu, the new Ambassador and Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York.