

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

2 INTRODUCED BY M. BLASDEL

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REAFFIRMING MONTANA'S COMMITMENT TO ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN;
6 SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; AND
7 WELCOMING THE RESUMPTION OF FREE TRADE TALKS AND THE SIGNING OF FREE TRADE
8 AGREEMENTS.

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10 WHEREAS, Taiwan, the United States, and in particular the State of Montana share a historical and close
11 relationship marked by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural exchange, and tourism; and

12 WHEREAS, Taiwan shares with the United States and the State of Montana the common values of
13 freedom, democracy, human rights, and rule of law; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States ranks as Taiwan's third largest trading partner, Taiwan is the tenth largest
15 trading partner of the United States, and bilateral trade reached \$67.2 billion in 2011; and

16 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the State of Montana have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship
17 with the prospect of further growth, and Taiwan was Montana's fifth largest export destination in 2011, with \$66.3
18 million worth of Montana goods shipped to Taiwan, including industrial machinery, chemical products, ores,
19 specialty grains, and food products; and

20 WHEREAS, Taiwan has traditionally ranked as one of the top five importers of Montana wheat; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States on November 1, 2012, officially included Taiwan in its Visa Waiver
22 Program, allowing Taiwan's citizens to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or
23 less without being required to obtain a visa, and the program will increase tourism and business between Taiwan
24 and the United States, particularly Montana, with the prospect of 30% to 40% growth of Taiwanese travelers to
25 the United States in 2013, rising from 400,000 Taiwanese travelers in 2011; and

26 WHEREAS, the issue of U.S. beef exports to Taiwan has been settled, and the resumption of trade talks
27 on the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between
28 Taiwan and the United States will not only help to forge a closer relationship but will also create greater benefits
29 and well-being for the State of Montana and boost Taiwan's chances to enter the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and

30 WHEREAS, President Ma Ying-jeou has worked tirelessly to uphold democratic principles in Taiwan,

1 ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's 23 million citizens, promote Taiwan's international standing as a responsible
2 member of the international community, increase participation in international organizations, dispatch
3 humanitarian missions abroad, and further improve relations between the United States and Taiwan; and

4 WHEREAS, Taiwan, as a willing and contributing member of the world community, has made countless
5 contributions of technical and financial assistance in the wake of Hurricane Sandy and other natural disasters
6 worldwide.

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8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 STATE OF MONTANA:

10 (1) That Montana reaffirms its commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan
11 and the State of Montana.

12 (2) That Montana supports Taiwan's appropriate participation in international organizations that impact
13 the health, safety, and well-being of Taiwan.

14 (3) That Montana welcomes the resumption of trade talks on the Trade and Investment Framework
15 Agreement, welcomes the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between Taiwan and the United States in the
16 process of closer economic integration, and supports Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

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