

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

2 INTRODUCED BY BLASDEL, HOLLENBAUGH, HUNTER, KNUDSEN, MCCLAFFERTY, SESSO, SONJU,
3 VANCE, HOWARD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

