Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4013
(Senators Miller, Flakoll, Wardner)
(Representatives D. Johnson, K. Koppelman)

A concurrent resolution urging North Dakota to continue its endorsement and support of the relationship and shared interests between the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the State of North Dakota.

WHEREAS, in the first 10 months of 2014, bilateral trade reached $56.4 billion, which makes Taiwan the 10th largest trading partner of the United States, while the United States is Taiwan's second largest trading partner and largest single source of foreign direct investment; and

WHEREAS, the United States was the largest source of foreign direct investment in Taiwan, cumulatively investing $23 billion as of January 2014; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota maintains and values its relationship with Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan was the 14th largest import partner of North Dakota in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission from Taiwan visited North Dakota on September 11, 2013, and signed a letter of intent with the North Dakota Wheat Commission, expressing its intent to purchase a total of 1.7 million megatons of wheat in 2014 and 2015, the value of this purchase is estimated to be $484.5 million; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jack Dalrymple remarked that Taiwan has been one of North Dakota's most dependable markets for hard spring wheat; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States resumed negotiations under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in March 2013, after a five-year hiatus, and held the eighth round of negotiations in April 2014; and

WHEREAS, a Bilateral Investment Agreement would give investors in both economies greater assurance that the capital they are putting at risk in each others market will be adequately protected; and

WHEREAS, the United States has already concluded, or is seeking to negotiate, Bilateral Investment Agreements with 9 of its top 10 trading partners, and Taiwan is the sole exception; and

WHEREAS, opening negotiations for a Bilateral Investment Agreement between the United States and Taiwan will provide more stability for strong two-way investment ties; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan hopes to work, via regional economic bodies, to further develop bilateral and multilateral trade with the United States and other nations in the Asia-Pacific region, seeking to join the United States led Trans-Pacific Partnership; and

WHEREAS, in early October 2013, the former Vice President of Taiwan, Vincent C. Siew, engaged in bilateral discussions with the United States Secretary of State, John F. Kerry, regarding in-depth exchange of opinions on economic and trade cooperation between Taiwan and the United States, as well as Taiwan's future participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and

WHEREAS, civil aviation plays a pivotal role in promoting cultural exchange, business, trade, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the development of international civil aviation in a safe and orderly manner is the ultimate objective of the International Civil Aviation Organization; and

WHEREAS, without Taiwan's participation, international flight plans, regulations and procedures that the International Civil Aviation Organization formulates will be incomplete and unsafe; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's airspace accommodates 14 international flight routes, and Taiwan's air traffic controllers help direct 1.3 million international flights through Taiwan's airspace per year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberto Kobeh Gonzalez, President of the International Civil Aviation Organization, sent a letter to Ms. Shen Chi, Director General of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, inviting her to lead a delegation to the 38th Session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization to be convened September 24 to October 4, 2013, in Montreal, Canada, as his guests under the name "Chinese Taipei"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State spokesperson, Jen Psaki, and the United States Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx, have both expressed their support for this development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly urges North Dakota to continue its endorsement and support of the relationship and shared interests between the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the State of North Dakota; that the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly welcomes the resumption of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement talks between the United States and Taiwan and expresses support for Taiwan's effort to secure entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership along with the United States and other friendly Asia-Pacific Rim countries, as well as expressing support of the signing of the Bilateral Investment Agreement with the United States; that the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly endorses Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization as an observer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to United States Secretary of State, John F. Kerry; Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Mr. Raymond Benjamin; United States Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Anthony Foxx; Governor of the Taiwan Provincial Government, Mr. Junq-Tzer Lin; and Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City, Mr. Jiuh-Chung Yang.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this 26th day of March, 2015,

at 10:20 o'clock A. M.

Secretary of State