

## House Resolution 554

By: Representatives Smith of the 113<sup>th</sup>, Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup>, Lunsford of the 110<sup>th</sup>, Ramsey of the 72<sup>nd</sup>, Cheokas of the 134<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Republic of China (Taiwan) on its recent progress in the growth of its  
2 democracy and its relations with the United States; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, in 2008, Freedom House again ranked Taiwan as one of the most free states in  
4 the world, and, to this day, Taiwan remains the first and only ethnic-Chinese nation to realize  
5 a fully functioning democracy; and
- 6 WHEREAS, in May of 2008, Taiwan witnessed its second peaceful transition of political  
7 power, paving the way for Taiwan to serve as a beacon of democracy to Asia and beyond;  
8 and
- 9 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are long-standing allies who both deeply cherish  
10 the values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the year 2009 marked the 30th anniversary of the "Taiwan Relations Act," the  
12 creation of which provided the basic structure and legal foundation for the United States to  
13 develop its numerous mutual relations with Taiwan; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the United States  
15 is Taiwan's third-largest trading partner; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Taiwan is seeking to enter into a free trade agreement with the United States  
17 to further promote trade and investment relations between the two countries; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Taiwan's strategic position in the Asian Pacific region makes its stability vital  
19 to not only the economies in the region but also of the world; and

20 WHEREAS, today, the government of Taiwan has committed itself to achieving peace and  
21 co-prosperity with mainland China by resuming bilateral talks and opening up direct flight  
22 and shipping links across Taiwan Straits; and

23 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community with a  
24 long-standing commitment to international health and humanitarian aid; and

25 WHEREAS, it is imperative for Taiwan to participate in the activities of the World Health  
26 Organization for the sake of global health, particularly in light of threatening epidemic  
27 diseases such as SARS, bird flu, and others.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body commend and support the democratization efforts of the Republic  
30 of China (Taiwan) as well as its efforts to join the World Health Organization and other  
31 international organizations.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body hereby welcomes all opportunities to develop  
33 the special bond of friendship between the United States and Taiwan and encourages further  
34 cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of the United States and  
35 the Republic of China (Taiwan).

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Larry R.L. Tseng,  
38 Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.