



SOUTH

## **RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States enjoy a strong relationship and share dearly cherished values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and rule of law; and

**WHEREAS**, Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade in goods and services reaching \$90.9 billion in 2020, and the eighth largest export destination for U.S. agricultural products; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S.-Taiwan 11th Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council Meeting in June 2021 helped strengthen supply chain cooperation in industries ranging from semi-conductors to electric vehicles to vaccines, and established that both sides would welcome commencing negotiations for a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) as well as Taiwan's participation in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF); and

**WHEREAS**, to promote business between different regions of the United States and Taiwan, U.S. state governments have established representative offices in Taiwan to address states' respective needs to facilitate business, investment, education, and tourism; and Taiwan encourages each state to establish representative offices in Taiwan to strengthen bilateral trade and economic relations; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States and Taiwan have long enjoyed strong health cooperation and have taken steps to enhance ongoing collaboration on global health security, control of infectious diseases, and the development of drugs and vaccines intended to fight COVID-19, and to prevent future international health crises through continued cooperation; and

**WHEREAS**, Taiwan has signed mutual driver's license recognition agreements with 36 U.S. states since 2013, and more than 16,000 U.S. and Taiwanese citizens have benefitted from these agreements which increase the mobility of international students, people in business, and academics; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that members of CSG South support the development of an even closer economic relationship, and more people-to-people exchanges between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the directors, commissioners and secretaries of international trade and development, as well as the governors and lieutenant governors in the 15 CSG South States.