

Good afternoon Sen. Slossberg, Rep. Morin, co-chairs and members of this committee. My Name is Rep. Ernest Hewett and I am here to support Resolution 14.

The Republic of China was the first democratic republic in Asia and has worked to establish itself as a strong and successful democracy. Over the past few decades, The Republic of China on Taiwan has been lauded as a beacon of democracy in the world, and is the ninth largest trading partner and a strong democratic partner with the United States.

Taiwan and Connecticut have maintained a strong cultural, educational and economic sister-state relationship since 1999. During the past 12 years, The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York has had the privilege to work with the Connecticut government and legislature in promoting the economic, cultural, and social exchanges between the people of Connecticut and Taiwan. The State of Connecticut is now home to a growing Taiwanese/Chinese community, with State Representative William Tong, State Representative Tony Hwang, and Dr. Henry Lee as a part of growing list of distinguished community leaders. In terms of economic exchanges, Taiwan and Connecticut share common interests in information technology, electronic, transportation and bio-tech industries. As of 2009, the trade volume between Connecticut and Taiwan has increased to \$140 million. Also in 2010, President Obama approved a sale of 60 Black Hawk helicopters to Taiwan with an estimated value of \$3.1 billion. These helicopters are scheduled to be made in Stratford, Connecticut. I therefore fully support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same. Thank you.