



State of Connecticut

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
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PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 25, 2011

To: Government Administration and Elections Committee

From: Rep. Minnie Gonzalez

RE: Resolution Commemorating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan)

Good afternoon Sen. Slossberg, Rep. Morin, Co-chairs and members of this committee. I am honored to be able to speak today in support of this resolution concerning the participation of China in the World Health Organization. I had the opportunity to visit Taiwan along with my colleagues from Connecticut and other states.

That cultural exchange allowed me to gain a better understanding and appreciation for our world-wide community and a mutual increase in understanding about development projects, economic revitalization and other issues of interest.

I was able to learn about the differences and similarities in the way our governments handle economic development and revitalization, and also learned more about the culture, history and people of Taiwan.

The visit was very enriching and I believe we should continue that process of open exchange with China as our global partner in many endeavors.

I fully support this resolution for the participation of China in the World Health Organization and urge my colleagues to do the same. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Minnie Gonzalez
State Representative
3rd District

Fact Sheet

The Relations between Connecticut and The Republic of China (Taiwan)

prepared by Shih-fan Lu

Senior Consular Officer, Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in New York

Founded by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen in 1912, 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.