



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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CHILDREN COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

February 22, 2013

Testimony in support of Proposed House Resolution number 8, Resolution Commemorating the Fourteenth Anniversary of the Connecticut-Taiwan Sister State Relationship before the Government Administration and Elections Committee

Honorable Co-Chairmen, Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee;

My name is State Representative Ernest Hewett and I am here before you to testify in favor of House Resolution number 8, Resolution Commemorating the Fourteenth Anniversary of the Connecticut-Taiwan Sister State Relationship. The purpose of this Resolution is to continue to show our State's appreciation on the 14th anniversary of the Connecticut-Taiwan Sister-State relationship and support a closer economic and trade partnership between the United States and Taiwan.

Fourteen years ago, geographically two very distant places began maintaining closer cultural, educational and economic relations. It is worth pointing out that in 2011 Connecticut had exported \$115 million worth of products to Taiwan, making the Republic of China one of the most important foreign markets for our state.

The United States is an advocate for the Republic of China in joining many international organizations. Recognizing Taiwan's role in fostering better relations with the United States, it was included in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program on November 1, 2012. Such an important measure allows for developing even closer ties between Connecticut and Taiwan. It also provides Connecticut and Taiwan with improved opportunities to develop stronger economic and cultural relations.

I urge the Committee to favorably consider this Resolution proposal. This Resolution's copy, if enacted would be sent to the President Ma Ying-Jeou of the Republic of China through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest Hewett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal stroke at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Ernest Hewett