

BY: Senator STAVISKY

CELEBRATING Taiwan Heritage Day to strengthen the friendship and bilateral relationship between the State of New York and Taiwan

WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share common ideals and a clear vision for the 21st century, where freedom and democracy are the foundation for peace, prosperity, and progress; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) in 1979 to sustain a close bilateral relationship and to advance mutual security and commercial interests between the U.S. and Taiwan, and the TRA along with Six Assurances have served as cornerstones of U.S.-Taiwan relations and helped to preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Taiwan share a long-term and close economic relationship, with \$68.2 billion in bilateral trade in 2017, making Taiwan the 11th largest trading partner of the United States; and Taiwan has expressed its wish to sign a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the United States; and

WHEREAS, The United States has assisted Taiwan in participating in the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and will continue to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in these and other international organizations; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York exported \$737 million worth of products to Taiwan in 2017, making Taiwan the 16th largest foreign market for the State of New York; and the bilateral trade and investment have created about 10,000 jobs in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Many of the United States' top 500 companies headquartered in New York have invested in Taiwan, while more than 300 Taiwanese companies have invested in New York, contributing to mutually beneficial relationship for decades; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has signed mutual driver's license recognition pacts with 25 U.S. states since 2013, and more than 10,000 Taiwanese and American citizens have taken advantage of the above-mentioned pacts, and were Taiwan and New York State to enter into a driver's license reciprocity agreement with each other, this would help increase the mobility of international students, businessmen, and academics from both sides; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York is home to a thriving overseas ethnic Chinese communities that support the Republic of China (Taiwan), including the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA), the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of New York, Inc., the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York, Inc., Buddha's Light International Association in

New York, the Taiwan Center Senior Center, Taiwanese American Association of New York, that devote themselves to the harmony and development of the community of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate Taiwan Heritage Day to strengthen the friendship and bilateral relationship between the State of New York and Taiwan; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to President Tsai Ing-wen of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and to Ambassador Lily Hsu, of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York.