

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

WHEREAS, civil aviation plays a pivotal role in promoting cultural exchange, business, trade and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the development of international civil aviation in a safe and orderly manner is the supreme cause of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); and

WHEREAS, with an excellent geographic location, Taiwan is a key aviation hub for regions in northeastern and southeastern Asia; and

WHEREAS, the Taipei Flight Information Region (FIR), bordering the FIRs of Fukuoka, Manila, Hong Kong and Shanghai, includes 14 international airways and 4 domestic airways, providing services for more than one million flights per year; and

WHEREAS, each year, approximately 40 million travelers enter, leave or pass through the Taipei FIR, making Taiwan a key part of air navigation in East Asia; and

WHEREAS, currently, more than 50 domestic and foreign airlines operate flights from Taiwan to 110 cities in the world and the annual number of passengers on international flights is approximately 30 million; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the number of international passengers at Taiwan's largest airport – Taoyuan International Airport – ranked 16th worldwide, while international cargo ranked 9th, making Taiwan one of the busiest airspaces in the world; and

WHEREAS, without Taiwan's participation, international flight plans, regulations and procedure that the ICAO formulates will be incomplete and unsafe; and

WHEREAS, as an island in the Pacific Ocean, Taiwan is imperiled by rising sea levels and the ravages of extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, it is apparent that to overcome the challenges posed by such an immense undertaking as climate change, there must be concerted effort and cooperation among the world citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's exclusion from meaningful participation in UNFCCC has been to the detriment of both the Taiwanese people and the global community as Taiwan not only has the means but also incentive to make a meaningful contribution; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's request to participate in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is fully in line with the United States government's policy of supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in United Nations specialized agencies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, endorse Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as an observer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Missouri General Assembly is supportive of all efforts to grant Taiwan official observer status at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and, as a collaborative partner of the United States on a wide range of public issues, Taiwan should be afforded the opportunity to participate in global efforts aimed at reducing and preventing natural disasters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the United States Secretary of State, the United States Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation, and the Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City.