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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4009

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Hasegawa and Kenney

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND TO THE DIRECTOR  
3 GENERAL OF THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
6 represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State has officially  
8 affirmed its support for the participation of the Republic of China  
9 (Taiwan) as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on  
10 Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in the International Civil Aviation  
11 Organization (ICAO); and

12 WHEREAS, Legislative bodies in the states of Alabama, Florida,  
13 Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine,  
14 Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South  
15 Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia have  
16 affirmed their support for the participation of the Republic of China  
17 (Taiwan) as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on  
18 Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in the International Civil Aviation  
19 Organization (ICAO); and

1           WHEREAS, The state of Washington and Taiwan have enjoyed a long and  
2 mutually beneficial relationship with the prospect of further growth,  
3 and that Taiwan was Washington's 5th largest export market in 2010; and

4           WHEREAS, Climate change has become a major global issue confronting  
5 humanity in the 21st century; and

6           WHEREAS, Global climate change seriously affects the sustainable  
7 development and welfare of Taiwan's 23 million people; and

8           WHEREAS, Taiwan was devastated by Typhoon Morakot on August 8,  
9 2009, causing severe loss of life and property; and

10          WHEREAS, The UNFCCC preamble acknowledges that the global nature of  
11 climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all  
12 countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate  
13 response; and

14          WHEREAS, For political reasons, Taiwan has long been excluded from  
15 the United Nations affiliated UNFCCC and related mechanisms; and

16          WHEREAS, Taiwan is unable to access UNFCCC resources such as the  
17 international disaster early warning system, and is vulnerable to  
18 climate change; and

19          WHEREAS, According to the 2009 Key World Energy statistics released  
20 by the International Energy Agency (IEA), Taiwan ranks as the 22nd  
21 largest emitter of carbon dioxide and the 18th largest per capita; and

22          WHEREAS, Taiwan is the world's 26th largest economy and 18th  
23 largest trading country; and

24          WHEREAS, Taiwan has the means and incentive to assume its due  
25 responsibilities in the fight against global climate change; and

26          WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the UNFCCC as an observer will  
27 enable that nation to make valuable contributions to the international  
28 community; and

29          WHEREAS, For political reasons, Taiwan has also long been barred  
30 from participation in the United Nations affiliated International Civil  
31 Aviation Organization (ICAO) and related mechanisms; and

32          WHEREAS, Taiwan has no access to timely information released by  
33 ICAO on topics such as air flight route planning, air traffic flow  
34 management, beacon codes, and airspace control; and

35          WHEREAS, Taiwan is a key air transport hub that links Northeast and  
36 Southeast Asia with around 2,600 weekly flights to and from neighboring  
37 countries; and

1           WHEREAS, The Taipei Flight Information Region (Taipei FIR) under  
2 Taiwan's jurisdiction covers 176,000 square nautical miles, services 12  
3 international and 4 domestic routes, and has 1.35 million controlled  
4 flights pass through every year; and

5           WHEREAS, Some 174,000 international flights carrying over 35  
6 million passengers arrived in and departed from Taiwan in 2008; and

7           WHEREAS, According to 2008 statistics, Airports Council  
8 International ranked Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport as the  
9 world's 11th largest airport by international cargo volume and 19th in  
10 terms of international passenger services; and

11          WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the ICAO as an observer will ensure  
12 the aviation safety of passengers from both Taiwan and abroad; and

13          WHEREAS, In April 2009, Taiwan's Health Minister was invited by the  
14 Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) to lead a  
15 delegation to attend the 62nd World Health Assembly (WHA) as an  
16 observer, setting a precedent for Taiwan's participation in United  
17 Nations specialized agencies;

18          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
19 Legislature support the participation of the Republic of China (Taiwan)  
20 as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate  
21 Change (UNFCCC) and in the International Civil Aviation Organization  
22 (ICAO).

23          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
24 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
25 States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Director  
26 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle.

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