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H. CON. RES. 18

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should resume normal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2009

Mr. LINDER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should resume normal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, and for other purposes.

Whereas the people of Taiwan have established a vibrant and pluralistic democracy;

Whereas the people of Taiwan have conducted four successful presidential elections, successive elections for members of their national legislature, numerous local elections, and two national referendums;

Whereas Taiwan has never been under the jurisdiction of the Communist government in Beijing, which continues to illegitimately claim sovereignty over Taiwan and its 23,000,000 citizens;

Whereas the Shanghai Communique, which maintains that there is “One China” and that “Taiwan is part of China”, was established without the consultation of Congress or people of Taiwan;

Whereas Communist China has since used the “One China Policy” to block Taiwan’s membership and full participation in international organizations and events, ranging from the United Nations and the World Health Organization to the Olympics;

Whereas the “One China Policy” is effectively obsolete, and does not reflect the obvious reality that Taiwan has functioned as an independent and sovereign country for over half a century;

Whereas Taiwan maintains diplomatic, cultural, and economic relations with several countries around the world;

Whereas Taiwan and the United States maintained formal diplomatic relations until 1979;

Whereas former President Jimmy Carter abruptly severed diplomatic ties with the Taiwan in 1979 and terminated the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and Taiwan without consulting or seeking the approval of Congress;

Whereas Congress responded later that year by adopting the Taiwan Relations Act, codifying in law the basis for continued friendly relations between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas former President Ronald Reagan issued the “Six Assurances” to Taiwan in July 1982, including the assurance that “[t]he United States would not formally recognize Chinese sovereignty over Taiwan.”; and

Whereas Taiwan has been a steadfast ally of the United States and a responsible and compassionate member of the world community: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the President should abandon the fun-
 4 damentally flawed “One China Policy” in favor of a
 5 more realistic “One China, One Taiwan Policy” that
 6 recognizes Taiwan as a sovereign and independent
 7 country, separate from the Communist regime in
 8 Beijing;

9 (2) the President should begin the process of
 10 resuming normal diplomatic relations with Taiwan;
 11 and

12 (3) the President, the Permanent Representa-
 13 tive of the United States to the United Nations, and
 14 other relevant United States officials should aggres-
 15 sively support Taiwan’s full participation in the
 16 United Nations and any other international organi-
 17 zation of which the United States is a member, and
 18 for which statehood is a requirement for member-
 19 ship.

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