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INHOFE, MENENDEZ CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

WASHINGTON— U.S.Senators Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Bob Menendez (D-NJ), co-chairs of the Senate Taiwan Caucus, today released the following statements in celebration of the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) and the continuing and growing partnership between Taiwan and the United States:

“As we celebrate the anniversary of this vital legislation, the importance of the relationship between Taiwan and the United States cannot be overstated,” Inhofe said. “The Taiwan Relations Act has played an indispensable role in shaping American policy toward Taiwan and U.S. strategy in Asia. Taiwan is one of the strongest democratic and economic partners of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and serves as a model of freedom. Taiwan’s strength, both democratically and economically, helps to bolster peace and stability in this strategically important region.”

“This anniversary not only represents another important milestone in our longstanding relationship, but also celebrates the foundation on which our bilateral security, economic and trade relations will continue to grow and flourish,” Menendez said. “Taiwan's impressive achievements over the last decades have proven the merits of the Taiwan Relations Act. Looking forward, as we commemorate the anniversary of this landmark legislation, the United States will continue to support Taiwan’s democracy, freedom and economic prosperity – and the longstanding friendship with the people of Taiwan.”

Statement by the Congressional Taiwan Caucus

April 11, 2016 Washington, D.C.—Representatives Gerry Connolly, Mario Diaz-Balart, Albio Sires, and Gregg Harper, the co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, made the following statement regarding the 37th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and the 14th anniversary of the establishment of the Caucus:

“As co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, we welcome and celebrate the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, which has served as the foundation of a close and enduring relationship between the United States and Taiwan since April 10, 1979.

When the Carter Administration proposed legislation to establish the legal authority for U.S.-Taiwan relations, Congress made significant amendments to the proposal and put its imprint on our steadfast commitment to Taiwan. The resulting Taiwan Relations Act has contributed immeasurably to the promotion of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region while helping Taiwan develop into an open society with a vibrant economy. The Act stands as a unique example of Congressional prerogative in shaping U.S. foreign policy.

Accordingly, we are also commemorating the 14th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus. The Caucus was established on April 9, 2002 to educate Members of Congress on issues affecting U.S.–Taiwan relations and to enhance and strengthen our bilateral ties. Currently, the Taiwan Caucus is the largest country caucus in the House of Representatives. The Caucus has grown from 85 Members at the time of its establishment to 205 in the 114th Congress.

This growth reflects the broad and stable consensus in the U.S. Congress regarding the importance of Taiwan. The Senate and House recently passed S.2426 to support Taiwan’s observer status in the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), which was signed into law by President Obama on March 18, 2016. Additionally, in December of last year, Congress welcomed the Administration’s notification of an arms sale to Taiwan totaling \$1.8 billion.

We are honored to lead the celebration in Congress of the 37th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and the 14th anniversary of the establishment of the Taiwan Caucus. We look forward to continued advocacy on behalf of Taiwan’s long-term security, its democratic system, and its participation in international organizations and trade forums.”