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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Memorandum of Understanding Between The State of Maryland, USA, and Anhui Province, China

The visit of The Honorable Wang Taihua, Chairman of the Anhui Provincial Government, and his accompanying delegation, to the State of Maryland, USA, from May 25 to May 26 upon the invitation of The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland, has given both parties the opportunity to renew their Sister State ties established over two decades ago. During their time together, both parties reviewed the friendly collaborations which have taken place over the years and exchanged ideas for expanding and enhancing their relationship through further cooperation in areas including, but not limited to, environmental protection and remediation, education and training, agriculture and bioscience, telecommunications and information technology, and medicine and health care. And, therefore, each party joins with the other in reaching the following understanding.

1. Both parties recognize a mutual interest in protecting their environmental and natural resources and agree to strengthen collaborative efforts to address environmental concerns. To that end, the parties will establish a framework of ongoing exchanges to foster coordination in regulatory and policy issues, develop management and technical training programs, share information and expertise, and promote investment opportunities and economic relationships.
2. Both parties consider knowledge to the basis for all understanding and agree to establish an educational partnership to raise cross-cultural awareness and advance economic and social well-being. To further those goals, the parties will extend and enhance cooperation in higher and elementary education as well as vocational training. The two parties will encourage faculty/student exchanges and joint research programs, explore the possibilities of co-founding teaching and training institutions, and sponsor reciprocal visits and seminars.

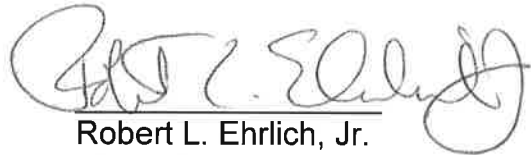
- Both parties recognize the mutual importance of a strong and diverse agricultural economy and agree to broaden existing communication and cooperation to benefit not only each other's farmers, watermen, and agribusiness, but also the consumers in home and export markets. To achieve these aims, the parties will work collaboratively to improve overall production, processing, and management practices, develop exchange programs in science, technology and education as well as promote experimental and demonstration projects, support programs to raise food quality and safety standards, and foster investment and competitive trade.

In addition, both parties agree to develop new collaborations in public health services, information technology sharing, cultural and arts exchanges, and urban and rural forestry practices. Both parties will continue to seek to promote opportunities for interaction among entrepreneurs and business enterprises, to expand commerce and trade, and in all areas of mutual interest, work for the betterment of the lives of the people of Anhui Province and the citizens of the State of Maryland.

Signed in Annapolis, Maryland on May 26th 2004. This Memorandum has both English and Chinese versions, both versions being equally authentic.



Wang Taihua
Chinaman
Anhui Provincial Government



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor
The State of Maryland