

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY REPRESENTATIVES WRIGHT, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BROWN, CARRIER, CORMIER, COX, EDMONDS, EMERSON, GAROFALO, HARRIS, MIKE JOHNSON, GREGORY MILLER, CHARLES OWEN, RISER, AND SCHEXNAYDER AND SENATORS MORRIS AND PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express recognition and encouragement of the economic ties and friendship between the state of Louisiana and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

WHEREAS, the longstanding bonds of friendship between the United States and Taiwan, embodied in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, continue to yield important economic, social, strategic, and cultural benefits; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan ranks as the United States' ninth largest trading partner with bilateral trade reaching \$114 billion, and it was the sixth largest export market for U.S. agricultural products in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the robust U.S.-Taiwan trade and investment partnership provides a solid foundation for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement to spur job creation, further expand the global market, and secure international supply chains; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is committed to helping address global challenges from humanitarian crises to nontraditional security threats; moreover, it has emerged as an important partner in pandemic prevention, bolstering unprecedented international support for Taiwan's bid to participate in the World Health Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese officials and civil society groups partner with the U.S. on a range of issues to promote common values of freedom, democracy, and human rights, building on the cooperative tradition of joint partnerships such as the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, which advances Taiwanese leadership in such arenas as democratization, human rights, women's empowerment, and public health; and

WHEREAS, since 1985, Louisiana and Taiwan have maintained a sister-state relationship and continue to enjoy particularly close economic ties; Taiwan is Louisiana's seventh largest export partner in Asia, and the state exported more than \$77.3 million in goods and services to Taiwan in 2021; and

WHEREAS, sister-city connections have been established between cities in Louisiana and Taiwan to encourage cross-cultural connections and exchanges; Baton Rouge and Taichung became sister cities in 1980, and New Orleans and Tainan signed a sister-city agreement in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and the United States have benefitted immeasurably through decades of unwavering friendship with Taiwan, and the wider world is sure to reap tremendous rewards as Taiwan works to enhance its presence in the international community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express recognition and encouragement of the economic ties and friendship between the state of Louisiana and the Republic of China (Taiwan); does hereby express support for the strengthening of the state's partnership with Taiwan and for the expansion of Taiwan's role on the global stage; does hereby support a bilateral trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan; does hereby support Taiwan's participation in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity; does hereby support Taiwan's meaningful participation in the World Health Assembly and other international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and does hereby celebrate the forty-fourth anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, the thirty-eighth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between the state of Louisiana and Taiwan, and the ongoing sister-city partnerships between the cities of Baton Rouge and Taichung and the cities of New Orleans and Tainan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE