

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SENATOR CROWE

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Republic of China, known as Taiwan, for economic relations with Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Republic of China, known as Taiwan, for positive economic relations with
3 the state of Louisiana, to call for closer economic relations between Taiwan and the
4 United States, to support Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation
5 Organization and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to
6 encourage peaceful resolution of ongoing disputes in the East China Sea, and to
7 welcome Director General Steve Hsia for his continued efforts and contributions to
8 advance economic and cultural exchange between Taiwan and Louisiana.

9 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the world's twenty-seventh largest economy, eleventh most
10 competitive economy worldwide, seventeenth largest export economy, eighteenth largest
11 import economy, fourth largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, eleventh largest United
12 States trading partner, sixteenth largest United States export market, and largest per capita
13 importer of United States agricultural products, all of which have contributed to a robust bi-
14 lateral trade with the United States of America; and

15 WHEREAS, Taiwan is one of Louisiana's most important export markets with more
16 than six hundred twenty million dollars in products imported by Taiwan in 2012; and

17 WHEREAS, Governor Bobby Jindal made his first visit to Taiwan in January 2014
18 to meet President Ma Ying-Jeou and to hold meetings with executives from the Formosa

1 Plastics Group, the CPC Corporation, and others in order to promote trade successfully and
2 encourage investment between Taiwan and Louisiana; and

3 WHEREAS, with the approval of the United States Department of Energy granted
4 in February 2014, Taiwan will begin a long-term plan to import shale gas from Louisiana,
5 which is to begin in 2017 and is expected to be a multi-billion dollar business opportunity;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Taiwan is a member of the World Trade Organization and the Asia-
8 Pacific Economic Cooperation and maintains a bilateral free trade agreement between
9 Taiwan and the United States, and a regional free trade agreement to include Taiwan would
10 substantially reduce or eliminate most import quotas, duties, and other trade barriers,
11 expanding market opportunities for Louisiana and the entire United States; and

12 WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) represents a high standard,
13 ambitious, comprehensive, and forward-looking pathway for achieving an eventual Free
14 Trade Area of Asia-Pacific; and

15 WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the TPP would lead to an overall gain of over
16 seventy-seven billion dollars in social welfare for the United States and all other members;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, given the important role that Taiwan plays in commercial aviation and
19 the global economy, it is vital that Taiwan participates as an observer in the International
20 Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on
21 Climate Change (UNFCCC) meaningful participation by Taiwan as an observer in the ICAO
22 will enhance efforts to improve safety and procedures and develop a global strategy to
23 address aviation security threats, and as an observer in the UNFCCC, Taiwan would
24 contribute greatly to global efforts aimed at reducing and preventing natural disasters; and

25 WHEREAS, in light of the controversies in the East China Sea and the Diaoyutai
26 Islands, it is necessary to urge all parties concerned to resolve disputes peacefully; in order
27 to seek out a path to coexistence and mutual prosperity, the government of the Republic of
28 China proposes the East China Sea Peace Initiative in an effort to make the East China Sea
29 a place of peace and cooperation; and

30 WHEREAS, Steve Hsia, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural

1 Office in Houston, Texas, and his office have further advanced economic and educational
2 cooperation between Taiwan and Louisiana; and

3 WHEREAS, the year 2014 marks the twenty-ninth anniversary of the sister-state
4 relationship between Taiwan and Louisiana, as well as the thirty-fourth anniversary of the
5 sister-city relationship between the city of Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
7 hereby commends the Republic of China, known as Taiwan, for positive development
8 between Taiwan and Louisiana and the twenty-ninth anniversary of the sister-state
9 relationship between Taiwan and Louisiana and the thirty-fourth anniversary of the
10 sister-city relationship between the city of Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
12 hereby encourages closer economic relationships between Taiwan and the United States
13 through negotiation of a free trade agreement and bilateral investment agreement between
14 Taiwan and the United States and through Taiwan's membership in the Trans-Pacific
15 Partnership.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
17 hereby expresses support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Civil
18 Aviation Organization and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and
19 for the East China Sea Peace Initiative and the Taiwan-Japan Fisheries Agreement, both of
20 which contribute to regional peace and economic cooperation.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
22 hereby commends Steve Hsia, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
23 in Houston, for his efforts and contributions for enhancing cooperation between Taiwan and
24 Louisiana.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Steve
26 Hsia, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST

Crowe

SR No. 42

Commends the Republic of China, known as Taiwan, for positive economic relations with Louisiana, urges for closer economic relations between Taiwan and the U.S., supports Taiwan's participation in certain international organizations, and welcomes Director General Steve Hsia and commends his efforts and contributions to advancing this mutually beneficial trading partnership.