

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY SENATOR RISER

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Republic of China, known as Taiwan, for positive economic relations with Louisiana.

WHEREAS, according to 2015 figures, Taiwan is the fifth largest export market in Asia for Louisiana and the ninth largest trading partner with the United States as a whole; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Louisiana exported to Taiwan nearly 393.2 million dollars worth of raw materials, primarily petroleum and coal products, chemicals, and agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, with Taiwan as the leading importer of United States agricultural products and agribusiness continuing to be one of the leading industries in Louisiana, a natural mutuality has developed which strengthens the economies in both Louisiana and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, as evidence of the close economic ties between Louisiana and Taiwan, Louisiana maintains a trade office in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, over half of the exports from Louisiana to Taiwan are agricultural products and Taiwanese entrepreneurs have made considerable investment in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, among Taiwanese entrepreneurs that have made considerable investment in Louisiana are the West Lake Group, Formosa Plastics, and Nanya Products whose initial efforts in Louisiana petrochemical and plastics industries in Louisiana began in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, these and other Taiwanese enterprises have shown considerable potential and continue to boost investment and create jobs in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan affords entrepreneurs who choose to invest in their economy complete industrial supply chains, a high concentration of industrial clusters, and a consolidated manufacturer base; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan, China, Vietnam, the Phillipines, Malaysia, and Indonesia surround the South China Sea in the Western Pacific; and

WHEREAS, while countries have clashed over trade routes through the South China Sea for decades, Taiwan has proven a strategic ally in the crucial area of these sea lanes that are essential to Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, 2017 marks the thirty-second anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Taiwan and Louisiana, as well as the thirty-seventh anniversary of the sister-city relationship between the Taiwanese city of Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, vibrant relations between Louisiana and Taiwan hold great promise for both Louisiana companies and workers to continue strengthening this partnership in prosperity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Republic of China, known as Taiwan, for positive economic relations with Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE