

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 239

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: Encourages closer economic relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the negotiation of a free trade agreement between the two countries

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To encourage closer economic relationships between the United States and the Republic of
3 China (Taiwan) and the negotiation of a free trade agreement between the two
4 countries.

5 WHEREAS, for decades, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have
6 fostered a close relationship that has been of mutual economic, cultural, and strategic
7 benefit; bilateral trade between the U.S. and Taiwan reached \$65.3 billion in 2016, making
8 Taiwan the tenth largest trading partner of the U.S. as well as the largest per capita importer
9 of U.S. agricultural products; and

10 WHEREAS, Taiwan maintains biennial agricultural procurement missions to the
11 U.S. to sign multi-billion-dollar supply deals and has been actively dispatching a substantial
12 delegation to participate in the SelectUSA Investment Summit since 2013; and

13 WHEREAS, U.S. exports to Taiwan, combined with Taiwan's investment in the U.S.,
14 support more than three hundred thirty thousand well-paid U.S. jobs; both nations could
15 realize further economic gains through the establishment of a free trade agreement and by
16 enhancing the platforms of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and Digital
17 Economy Forum; and

18 WHEREAS, Taiwan remains a beacon of democracy as well as the only full-fledged
19 democracy in the Chinese-speaking world; the results of Taiwan's 2016 presidential election,
20 which marked both the third peaceful transition of political power since the first popular vote

1 for president held in 1996 and the first transition of its national legislative majority since
2 1949, serve as proof that Taiwan is a worthy candidate for the Community of Democracies;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 has been the cornerstone of relations
5 between the U.S. and Taiwan for thirty-eight years, and both countries have further affirmed
6 that Taiwan is an important and enduring economic and security partner through working
7 in a mutually beneficial partnership to address global challenges in such areas as
8 international humanitarian assistance, public health, and technology under the Global
9 Cooperation and Training Framework established in June of 2015; and

10 WHEREAS, travel from Taiwan to the United States has increased by more than fifty
11 percent since the announcement of Taiwan's participation in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program
12 in 2012, EVA Air launched its direct Taipei-Houston route in 2015, and the U.S. and Taiwan
13 signed a joint statement on an International Expedited Traveler Initiative in 2016, all
14 significant efforts which will promote tourism and encourage exchanges between the two
15 peoples; and

16 WHEREAS, Taiwan acts as a natural hub to other Asian destinations, with Taiwan's
17 Civil Aeronautics Administration providing services for more than one and a half million
18 controlled flights carrying fifty-eight million incoming and outgoing passengers annually;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, non-traditional security threats are increasing in the twenty-first
21 century, and the meaningful participation and inclusion of Taiwan, the twenty-second largest
22 economy in the world, to the International Criminal Police Organization, the International
23 Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,
24 and the World Health Assembly would be beneficial to all nations and their people; and

25 WHEREAS, this year marks the thirty-second anniversary of the sister-state
26 relationship between the state of Louisiana and Taiwan and the thirty-seventh anniversary
27 of the sister-city relationship between Baton Rouge and Taichung, a bond nurtured through
28 mutually beneficial exchanges; more than four thousand three hundred jobs in Louisiana are
29 supported by Taiwan-affiliated companies, and Louisiana exported \$2.06 billion in goods
30 to Taiwan in 2016, making Taiwan the fifth largest export market for Louisiana in Asia; and

1 WHEREAS, Formosa Petrochemical Corp is planning an eleven billion-dollar
2 investment of an industrial complex in St. James Parish, which would create one thousand
3 two hundred new direct jobs with an average annual salary of eighty-four thousand five
4 hundred dollars plus benefits and result in eight thousand new indirect jobs for a total of nine
5 thousand two hundred jobs in Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, allowing the recognition of valid, noncommercial driver's licenses
7 between Louisiana and Taiwan is part of the effort to promote a business-friendly
8 environment in order to advance mutual trade and investment.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
10 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage closer economic relationships between the
11 United States and Taiwan and the negotiation of a free trade agreement between the two
12 countries.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
14 of Louisiana does hereby commend the signing of a joint statement on an International
15 Expedited Traveler Initiative between the United States and Taiwan, which encourages
16 tourism; does hereby support Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Criminal
17 Police Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations
18 Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the World Health Assembly; and does
19 hereby encourage and support the mutual recognition of noncommercial driver's licenses
20 between Louisiana and Taiwan.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
22 of Louisiana does hereby celebrate the thirty-second anniversary of the sister-state
23 relationship between Louisiana and Taiwan and does hereby commend Louis M. Huang,
24 Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas, for efforts
25 and contributions toward enhancing cooperation between Taiwan and Louisiana.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
27 to Louis M. Huang.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 239 Original

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Emerson

Encourages closer economic relationships between the U.S. and Taiwan and the negotiation of a free trade agreement between the two countries; commends the signing of a joint statement on an International Expedited Traveler Initiative between the U.S. and Taiwan; supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Criminal Police Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the World Health Assembly; encourages and supports the mutual recognition of noncommercial driver's licenses between La. and Taiwan; celebrates the 32nd anniversary of the sister-state relationship between La. and Taiwan; and commends Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.