

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY REPRESENTATIVES CONNICK AND CROMER

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: Encourages closer economic relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the negotiation of a bilateral trade agreement between 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 bilateral 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 \$68.2 billion in 2017, making
8 Taiwan the eleventh largest trading partner of the U.S.; and

9 WHEREAS, Taiwan's economic revitalization program, the five-plus-two innovative
10 industries initiative, is boosting U.S.-Taiwan exchanges and as the core objective of
11 Taiwan's New Southbound Policy, it is forging regional links with Southeast Asian nations;
12 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 bilateral trade agreement and
16 by enhancing the platforms of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and Digital
17 Economy Forum; and

18 WHEREAS, Taiwan made a momentous transition to democracy beginning in the
19 late 1980s and has for years been a beacon of democracy in Asia, with Taiwan rated as free

1 by Freedom House twenty years in a row, an inspiring accomplishment for peace-loving
2 nations in the world; and

3 WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 continues to be the cornerstone of
4 relations, contributing to continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and the
5 U.S.-Taiwan Global Corporation and Training Framework, established in 2015, helps to
6 address global challenges such as international humanitarian assistance and public health;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, since November of 2012, travel from Taiwan to the U.S. has increased
9 by almost sixty percent and, with more American traveling to Taiwan, the U.S. and Taiwan
10 jointly launched trusted traveler programs on the fifth anniversary of Taiwan joining the
11 Visa Waiver Program, making Taiwan the twelfth partner worldwide and the third in East
12 Asia to join the U.S. Global Entry program; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, this year marks the thirty-third anniversary of the sister-state
23 relationship between the state of Louisiana and Taiwan, a bond nurtured through mutually
24 beneficial exchanges; more than four thousand three hundred jobs in Louisiana are supported
25 by Taiwan-affiliated companies, and Louisiana exported \$348 million in goods to Taiwan
26 in 2016, making Taiwan the fifth largest export market for Louisiana in Asia; and

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

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage closer economic relationships between the
3 United States and Taiwan and the negotiation of a bilateral trade agreement between the two
4 countries.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
6 of Louisiana does hereby commend the introduction of reciprocal travel programs, the U.S.
7 Global Entry program and the Taiwan e-Gate program, encouraging two-way tourism; does
8 hereby support Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Criminal Police
9 Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Framework
10 Convention on Climate Change, and the World Health Assembly; and does hereby
11 encourage and support the mutual recognition of noncommercial driver's licenses between
12 Louisiana and Taiwan.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
14 of Louisiana does hereby celebrate the thirty-third anniversary of the sister-state relationship
15 between Louisiana and Taiwan and does hereby commend Peter C.Y. Chen, Director
16 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas, for efforts and
17 contributions toward enhancing cooperation between Louisiana and Taiwan.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
19 to Peter C.Y. Chen.

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 2 Original

2018 Regular Session

Connick

Encourages closer economic relationships between the U.S. and Taiwan and the negotiation of a bilateral trade agreement between the two countries; commends the introduction of reciprocal traveler programs to encourage tourism; 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 33rd anniversary of the sister-state relationship between La. and Taiwan; and commends Peter C.Y. Chen, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.