

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY SENATOR RISER

ECONOMIC DEVELOP DEPT. Requests the Department of Economic Development to encourage further economic ties between the state of Louisiana and Taiwan.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Economic Development to encourage further
3 economic ties between the state of Louisiana and the Republic of China, also known
4 as Taiwan.

5 WHEREAS, for decades the United States and the Republic of China, also known
6 as Taiwan, have fostered a close relationship of enormous mutual economic, cultural, and
7 strategic benefit; and

8 WHEREAS, bilateral trade between the U.S. and Taiwan reached just over
9 sixty-eight billion dollars in 2017, making Taiwan the eleventh largest trading partner of the
10 U.S.; and

11 WHEREAS, Taiwan's economic revitalization program, the five-plus-two innovative
12 industries initiative, is boosting U.S.-Taiwan exchanges and, with an eye to further expand
13 that exchange, Taiwan's new Southbound Policy seeks to forge regional links with Southeast
14 Asian nations; and

15 WHEREAS, the U.S. exports to Taiwan combined with Taiwan's direct investment
16 in the U.S. support over three hundred thirty thousand American jobs, and both nations are
17 anticipating realizing further economic gains through the establishment of a Bilateral Trade
18 Agreement (BTA), as well as by enhancing the platforms of the Trade and Investment

1 Framework Agreement (TIFA), and the Digital Economy Forum (DEF); and

2 WHEREAS, Taiwan made a momentous transition to democracy and a capitalist
3 economic system beginning in the late 1980s, and has for years been a beacon of democracy
4 in Asia; and

5 WHEREAS, Freedom House, an organization that tracks freedom in countries around
6 the world and rates those countries according to the vibrancy of democracy in each country,
7 has rated Taiwan as "free" for twenty years in a row and currently rates Taiwan with a score
8 of ninety-three out of a possible one hundred and specifically highlights three peaceful
9 transfers of power between rival parties held in the country since 2000, as well as robust
10 protections for civil liberties, generally, an inspiring accomplishment for any peace-loving
11 nation in the world; and

12 WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 continues to be the cornerstone of
13 U.S.-Taiwan relations, contributing to continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific
14 region and the U.S.-Taiwan Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF)
15 established in June 2015 helps address global challenges such as international humanitarian
16 assistance and public health; and

17 WHEREAS, 2018 marks thirty-three years of the sister-state relationship between
18 Louisiana and Taiwan, a bond nurtured through mutually beneficial exchanges, including
19 forty-three hundred Louisiana jobs supported by Taiwan-affiliated companies and
20 Louisiana's nearly four hundred million dollars' trade in goods to Taiwan in 2017, which
21 makes Taiwan the fifth largest trading market for Louisiana in Asia; and

22 WHEREAS, Taiwan's recognition of valid, noncommercial driver's licenses between
23 Louisiana and Taiwan is part of efforts to promote a business-friendly environment between
24 the two countries in order to advance mutual trade and investment; and

25 WHEREAS, Taiwan should be commended on the introduction of reciprocal U.S.
26 and Taiwan trusted traveler programs, the U.S. Global Entry program, and the Taiwan
27 e-Gate program, which specifically encourages two-way tourism between the two countries;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, at a time of continuing tensions in Asia, specific threats by China
30 through its actions in the South China Sea, and threats by North Korea regarding the use of

1 nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula and beyond, closer economic ties between
2 Louisiana and Taiwan are fostered by Bilateral Trade Agreements, and Taiwan's meaningful
3 participation in numerous worldwide organizations, such as the International Criminal Police
4 Organization, known as INTERPOL, and the World Health Assembly; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Peter C. Y. Chen, Director General of the Taipei Economic and
6 Cultural Office in Texas is recognized for his efforts and contributions in enhancing
7 cooperation between Taiwan and the state of Louisiana.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
9 does hereby urge and request the Department of Economic Development to encourage
10 further economic ties between the state of Louisiana and the Republic of China, also known
11 as Taiwan.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Don
13 Pierson, secretary of the Department of Economic Development and to Mr. Peter C. Y.
14 Chen, 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	
SR 73 Original	2018 Regular Session	Riser

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