

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY REPRESENTATIVE CONNICK

A RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, for decades, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have fostered a close relationship that has been of mutual economic, cultural, and strategic benefit; bilateral trade between the U.S. and Taiwan reached \$76 billion in 2018, making Taiwan the eleventh largest trading partner of the U.S. and the largest per capita importer of U.S. agricultural products; both nations could realize further economic gains through the establishment of a bilateral trade agreement and by enhancing such platforms as a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and Digital Economy Forum; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan maintains biennial agricultural procurement missions to the U.S. to sign multi-billion-dollar supply deals and routinely dispatches a substantial delegation to participate in the SelectUSA Investment Summit; and

WHEREAS, the World Economic Forum's 2018 Global Competitiveness Report rated Taiwan thirteenth among one hundred forty economies and recognized Taiwan as one of the World's Four Super Innovators, resulting from wide-ranging regulatory efforts to build an environment conducive to financial sector development and foreign direct investment and underscoring the impact of Taiwan's five-plus-two industrial innovation initiative targeting the high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, green energy, national defense, smart machinery, and internet of things, as well as the circular economy and new agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen was elected on January 16, 2016, and has since paid two visits to Houston, Texas, to underscore the close ties between the two countries; during her most recent visit, in August of 2018, Governor John Bel Edwards

joined President Tsai at a business roundtable, highlighting the agreement between Taiwan's CPC Corporation and Houston-headquartered Cheniere for a \$25 billion, twenty-five-year purchase of Louisiana LNG, the economic benefit of Formosa Petrochemical's \$9.4 billion investment in St. James Parish, and the remarkable accomplishment of signing a driver's license reciprocity agreement between Louisiana and Taiwan on August 14, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 has continued to provide a sturdy foundation for the flourishing of robust U.S.-Taiwan relations for forty years, contributing to continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region; this year, the Taiwan Travel Act was passed by both chambers of the U.S. Congress and signed by President Trump to encourage high-level officials' visits between the two countries; and both countries have further affirmed the partnership in such areas as international humanitarian assistance, public health, and technology under the U.S.-Taiwan Global Cooperation and Training Framework established in 2015; and

WHEREAS, travel from Taiwan to the U.S. has increased by more than fifty percent since Taiwan's participation in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012, EVA Air launched its direct Taipei-Houston route in 2015, and Taiwan joined the U.S. Global Entry program in November 2017; these significant efforts will continue to promote tourism and encourage exchanges between the two peoples; and

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

WHEREAS, this year marks the thirty-fourth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between the state of Louisiana and Taiwan, which has nurtured and maintained a friendship built on unwavering bonds beneficial and rewarding for both governments and their citizens now and in the future.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Taiwan's inclusion in the U.S. Global Entry program and Visa Waiver program for the purpose of encouraging economic and cultural exchanges and does hereby support 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby celebrate the thirty-fourth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Louisiana and Taiwan and the fortieth anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and does hereby commend Peter Chen, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas, for efforts and contributions towards enhancing cooperation between Louisiana and Taiwan.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES