SLS 20RS-461

ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Encourages further economic ties and friendship between Louisiana and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To encourage further economic ties and friendship between the state of Louisiana and the
3	Republic of China (Taiwan).
4	WHEREAS, for decades the United States of America and the Republic of China
5	(Taiwan) have fostered a close relationship of enormous mutual economic, cultural, and
6	strategic benefit; and
7	WHEREAS, bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan reached \$85.5
8	billion in 2019, making Taiwan the tenth largest trading partner of the United States; and
9	WHEREAS, both nations could realize further economic gains through establishing
10	a free trade agreement and by enhancing platforms of the Trade and Investment Framework
11	Agreement (TIFA) and Digital Economy Forum (DEF); and
12	WHEREAS, for decades, Taiwanese companies, including Formosa Plastics
13	Corporation, Formosa Petrochemical Corporation, Nan Ya Plastic Corporation, Westlake
14	Chemical Corporation, and CPC Corporation, have announced multi-billion dollar
15	investments in Louisiana; and
16	WHEREAS, Taiwan has been routinely dispatching a substantial delegation to
17	participate in the SelectUSA Investment Summit since 2013; and
18	WHEREAS, United States exports to Taiwan, combined with Taiwan's investment

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1 in the United States, support over 370,000 well-paying jobs; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan imported nearly \$4.3 billion worth of United States farm
products in 2018, and in 2019, the Taiwan Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission to the
United States signed letters of intent on soybeans, corn, wheat, and meat, for the purchase
of United States grains worth \$2.7 billion and beef worth \$960 million in 2020-2021; and
WHEREAS, Taiwan is a beacon of democracy in Asia, rated as "free" by Freedom
House twenty-one years in a row; and

8 WHEREAS, on January 11, 2020, the people of Taiwan made history with nearly 9 seventy-five percent of eligible voters participating in the general election, and proving to 10 the world that democracy works as President Tsai Ing-wen and Vice President-elect Lai 11 Ching-te were elected to office with historic voter turnout of 8.17 million voters; and

12 WHEREAS, the World Economic Forum's 2019 Global Competitiveness Report 13 rated Taiwan twelfth among one hundred forty-one economies and recognized Taiwan's 14 innovation capability as one of the top four in the world, resulting from wide-ranging 15 regulatory efforts to build an environment conducive to financial sector development and 16 foreign direct investment, and underscoring the impact of Taiwan's 5+2 industrial innovation initiative targeting the high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, green energy, 17 18 national defense, smart machinery, and Internet of Things as well as the circular economy 19 and a new agriculture; and

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WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 has continued to provide a sturdy foundation for robust U.S.-Taiwan relations to flourish for forty-one years; and

WHEREAS, both countries have affirmed their partnership in areas of international humanitarian assistance, public health, and technology under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) established in June of 2015, and the Taiwan Travel Act of 2018 to encourage high-level officials' visits between the United States and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of Louisiana-Taiwan sister-state relations, which have nurtured and maintained a friendship built upon unwavering bonds beneficial and rewarding for both governments and their citizens now and in the future; and

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WHEREAS, travel from Taiwan to the United States has increased by approximately

sixty percent since Taiwan's participation in the United States Visa Waiver program; and 1 2 WHEREAS, in November of 2017, Taiwan joined the United States Global Entry 3 program with the hope that such efforts will continue to promote tourism and encourage 4 exchanges between the two nations; and WHEREAS, since nontraditional security threats are increasing, the meaningful 5 6 participation and inclusion of Taiwan to the International Criminal Police Organization 7 (INTERPOL), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations 8 Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the World Health Organization 9 (WHO) would be beneficial to all nations and their people. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 10 11 encourage closer economic relationships between the United States and Taiwan by 12 negotiating a free trade agreement between the two countries, commends Taiwan's inclusion 13 in the United States Global Entry and Visa Waiver program to encourage economic and 14 cultural exchanges, supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in the INTERPOL, ICAO, 15 UNFCCC, and WHO, and celebrates the thirty-fifth anniversary of the sister-state 16 relationship between Louisiana and Taiwan. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to 17 18 Mr. Peter C.Y. Chen, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in

19 Houston, Texas, and the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Ridge.

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