

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATORS JOHNS AND ROBERT MILLS AND REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Tuesday, April 7, 2020, as the first annual "World Trade Day" at the state capitol; to celebrate the longstanding, indispensable influence of international commerce on Louisiana's economic health, vitality, and growth; to express support for the mission of the World Trade Center of New Orleans; for trade policies that benefit American consumers and businesses, and to ensure the United States remains competitive in global commerce.

WHEREAS, Louisiana is home to the world's first World Trade Center, which originated as the "International House" in New Orleans more than seventy-five years ago in 1943, and has since inspired a global network of over three hundred world trade centers in more than one hundred countries; and

WHEREAS, the World Trade Center of New Orleans, a nonprofit organization, is committed to fostering economic development throughout the state of Louisiana by advocating for international trade objectives that bolster efficiencies, opportunities, and innovations for commerce; and

WHEREAS, having increased exports by sixty-one percent from 2008 to 2018, Louisiana is the fifth largest state exporter of goods in the United States, and Louisiana exports currently account for more than one quarter of the state's total economic output; and

WHEREAS, the latest available data from the United States Trade Representative shows that Louisiana exports support an estimated 129,000 jobs and that such jobs pay up to 18 percent above the national average; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana produces the majority of U.S. LNG exported globally, and according to LSU's Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana LNG projects could total nearly

\$100 billion in capital investment and add 20,000 new construction jobs and 1,500 new full-time jobs at Louisiana terminals once completed; and

WHEREAS, key economic-driving and job-creating industries in the state, including aerospace, agribusiness, automotive, energy, manufacturing, and process industries, rely on international commerce; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's geographical positioning allows the state to take unique advantage of the Mississippi River to enhance competitiveness in global trade, making current and future investment in the infrastructure of the Mississippi essential to continued commercial success; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana ports are among the highest-performing in the country, with the following ports designated as national "power ports": Port of South Louisiana (No. 1), Port of New Orleans (No. 4), Port of Baton Rouge (No. 8), Plaquemines Port (No. 11), and Port of Lake Charles (No. 12); and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the tactical advantage of being the only state with a deepwater port (Port of New Orleans) served by six of the seven Class I railroads, which comprise a 132,000 plus mile network of track and tie the port community and local industries directly to every major North American market; and

WHEREAS, the world recognizes Louisiana as a key trade and investment destination for international companies, with the state attracting more foreign direct investment per capita than any other since 2008; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana formally acknowledged the essential role of trade in 2012 by establishing the Louisiana Board of International Commerce to advance the state's competitive position in the global marketplace through continued attraction of foreign and domestic investment and enhancement of the state's trade-based economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Tuesday, April 7, 2020, as "World Trade Day" at the state capitol, celebrates the longstanding, indispensable influence of international commerce on Louisiana's economic health, vitality, and growth, and expresses support for the mission of the World Trade Center of New Orleans and for trade policies that benefit American consumers and businesses and ensure the United States remains competitive in global commerce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Louisiana delegation to the Congress of the United States, and the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES