

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY SENATOR PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVES BUTLER, CARRIER, DAVIS, FARNUM, FONTENOT, FRIEMAN, HILFERTY, MARINO, GREGORY MILLER, MOORE, NEWELL, CHARLES OWEN, RISER, STAGNI, THOMPSON AND WRIGHT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To encourage further economic ties and friendship between the state of Louisiana and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

WHEREAS, for decades the United States of America and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have fostered a close relationship of enormous mutual economic, cultural, and strategic benefit; and

WHEREAS, bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan reached \$85.5 billion in 2019, making Taiwan the tenth largest trading partner of the United States; and

WHEREAS, both nations could realize further economic gains through establishing a free trade agreement and by enhancing platforms of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) and Digital Economy Forum (DEF); and

WHEREAS, for decades, Taiwanese companies, including Formosa Plastics Corporation, Formosa Petrochemical Corporation, Nan Ya Plastic Corporation, Westlake Chemical Corporation, and CPC Corporation, have announced multi-billion dollar investments in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has been routinely dispatching a substantial delegation to participate in the SelectUSA Investment Summit since 2013; and

WHEREAS, United States exports to Taiwan, combined with Taiwan's investment 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

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

WHEREAS, the World Economic Forum's 2019 Global Competitiveness Report rated Taiwan twelfth among one hundred forty-one economies and recognized Taiwan's innovation capability as one of the top four in the world, 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 5+2 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 a new agriculture; and

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

WHEREAS, as evidence of the friendship and bond shared between Taiwan and Louisiana, Taiwan provided generous support during the COVID-19 public health emergency by donating one hundred thousand face masks to the state in April of 2020; and

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

WHEREAS, in November of 2017, Taiwan joined the United States Global Entry program with the hope that such efforts will continue to promote tourism and encourage exchanges between the two nations; and

WHEREAS, since nontraditional security threats are increasing, the meaningful participation and inclusion of Taiwan to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the World Health Organization (WHO) would be beneficial to all nations and their people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage closer economic relationships between the United States and Taiwan by negotiating a free trade agreement between the two countries, commends Taiwan's inclusion in the United States Global Entry and Visa Waiver program to encourage economic and cultural exchanges, supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in the INTERPOL, ICAO, UNFCCC, and WHO, and celebrates the thirty-fifth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Louisiana and Taiwan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Peter C.Y. Chen, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas, and the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES