

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY SENATOR PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVE GREGORY MILLER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express support for the strengthening of the partnership with Taiwan and for the expansion of Taiwan's role on the global stage.

WHEREAS, the longstanding bonds of friendship between the United States and Taiwan, embodied in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, continue to yield important economic, strategic, and cultural benefits; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, bilateral trade in goods reached \$85.5 billion ranking Taiwan as the United States' tenth largest trading partner, and Taiwan's recent action to lift restrictions on U.S. beef and pork beginning in January 2021 helped further enhance bilateral trade; and

WHEREAS, the seventh largest export market for U.S. agricultural products, Taiwan's biennial agricultural trade goodwill missions result in multibillion-dollar supply deals, and its annually dispatched delegations to the SelectUSA Investment Summit boost investments; and

WHEREAS, the robust US-Taiwan trade and investment partnership provides a solid foundation for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement (BTA) to spur job creation, further expand the global market, and secure international supply chains; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is well positioned to play an important role augmenting the revitalization of the global supply chain as part of the post-coronavirus pandemic economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is committed to helping address global challenges, from humanitarian crises to nontraditional security threats, emerging this year as an important partner in pandemic prevention, providing surgical masks and other PPE to more than eighty countries around the world, including one hundred thirty-five thousand surgical masks from the Taiwan government and Taiwan-affiliated private groups to the state and cities of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Taiwan Model has been admired around the world for its effective pandemic prevention and containment, bolstering unprecedented international support for Taiwan's bid to participate in the World Health Assembly (WHA); and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese officials and civil society groups partner with the United States on an array of issues to promote our common values of freedom, democracy, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, Taiwan joined with the United States to establish the Partnership against Coronavirus, building on the cooperative tradition of prior joint partnerships such as the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), which advances Taiwanese leadership in such arenas as democratization, human rights, women's empowerment, and public health; and

WHEREAS, since 1985, Louisiana and Taiwan have maintained a sister state relationship, enjoying particularly close economic ties, wherein Taiwanese firms have invested billions of dollars in a broad spectrum of Louisiana businesses, making Taiwan Louisiana's ninth largest foreign market in Asia; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Taiwan imported nearly \$3.65 billion in commodities from Louisiana including petroleum products, chemicals, primary metal manufacturing, and agricultural products, and Louisiana imported over \$1.27 billion in Taiwanese goods, primarily electronics, metal products, transportation equipment, and industrial machinery; and

WHEREAS, FG LA LLC, a group owned by Taiwanese company Formosa Plastics, is investing in and received proper state permits to construct a new petrochemical facility in St. James Parish, its fourth major investment in the state, and this project represents significant investment and quality jobs for St. James Parish, the river region and the state of Louisiana, including a projected \$33 million annually in state and local taxes, and \$5 billion annually in shipped goods, making the project among the largest economic generators in the state; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and the United States have benefitted immeasurably through decades of an unwavering friendship with Taiwan, and the wider world is sure to reap tremendous rewards as Taiwan works to enhance its presence in the international

community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its support for the strengthening of the partnership with Taiwan and for the expansion of Taiwan's role on the global stage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby:

(1) Express support for a bilateral trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan.

(2) Express support for 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.

(3) Celebrate the forty-second anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act and the thirty-sixth anniversary of the sister state relationship between the state of Louisiana and Taiwan.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES