

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY REPRESENTATIVES CONNICK AND CROMER

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 \$68.2 billion in 2017, making Taiwan the eleventh largest trading partner of the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's economic revitalization program, the five-plus-two innovative industries initiative, is boosting U.S.-Taiwan exchanges and as the core objective of Taiwan's New Southbound Policy, it is forging regional links with Southeast Asian nations; and

WHEREAS, U.S. exports to Taiwan, combined with Taiwan's investment in the U.S., support more than three hundred thirty thousand well-paid U.S. jobs; both nations could realize further economic gains through the establishment of a bilateral trade agreement and by enhancing the platforms of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and Digital Economy Forum; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan made a momentous transition to democracy beginning in the late 1980s and has for years been a beacon of democracy in Asia, with Taiwan rated as free by Freedom House twenty years in a row, an inspiring accomplishment for peace-loving nations in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 continues to be the cornerstone of relations, contributing to continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and the U.S.-Taiwan Global Corporation and Training Framework, established in 2015, helps to

address global challenges such as international humanitarian assistance and public health; and

WHEREAS, since November of 2012, travel from Taiwan to the U.S. has increased by almost sixty percent and, with more American traveling to Taiwan, the U.S. and Taiwan jointly launched trusted traveler programs on the fifth anniversary of Taiwan joining the Visa Waiver Program, making Taiwan the twelfth partner worldwide and the third in East Asia to join the U.S. Global Entry program; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan acts as a natural hub to other Asian destinations, with Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration providing services for more than one and a half million controlled flights carrying fifty-eight million incoming and outgoing passengers annually; 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-third anniversary of the sister-state relationship between the state of Louisiana and Taiwan, a bond nurtured through mutually beneficial exchanges; more than four thousand three hundred jobs in Louisiana are supported by Taiwan-affiliated companies, and Louisiana exported \$348 million in goods to Taiwan in 2016, making Taiwan the fifth largest export market for Louisiana in Asia; and

WHEREAS, allowing the recognition of valid, noncommercial driver's licenses between Louisiana and Taiwan is part of the effort to promote a business-friendly environment in order to advance mutual trade and investment.

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 the introduction of reciprocal travel programs, the U.S. Global Entry program and the Taiwan e-Gate program, encouraging two-way tourism; 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; and does hereby encourage and support the mutual recognition of noncommercial driver's licenses between Louisiana and Taiwan.

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

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES