

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY REPRESENTATIVES ARNOLD AND JAY MORRIS

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Republic of China (Taiwan) for positive economic relations with the state of Louisiana, to call for closer economic relations between Taiwan and the United States, to support Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to encourage peaceful resolution of ongoing disputes in the East China Sea, and to welcome Director General Steve Hsia for his continued efforts and contributions to advance economic and cultural exchange between Taiwan and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) engage in robust bilateral trade, and Taiwan is the world's twenty-seventh largest economy, eleventh most competitive economy worldwide, seventeenth largest export economy, eighteenth largest import economy, fourth largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, eleventh largest United States trading partner, sixteenth largest United States export market, and largest per capita importer of United States agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is one of Louisiana's most important export markets with more than six hundred twenty million dollars in products imported by Taiwan in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bobby Jindal made his first visit to Taiwan in January of this year to meet President Ma Ying-Jeou and to hold meetings with executives from the Formosa Plastics Group, the CPC Corporation, and others in order to successfully promote trade and encourage investment between Taiwan and the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, with the approval of the United States Department of Energy in February of this year, Taiwan will begin a long-term plan to import shale gas from Louisiana, which is to begin in 2017 and is estimated to be a multi-billion dollar business opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and a bilateral free trade agreement between Taiwan and the United States, and a regional free trade agreement to include Taiwan would substantially reduce or eliminate most import quotas, duties, and other trade barriers, expanding market opportunities for Louisiana and the entire United States; and

WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) represents a high standard, ambitious, comprehensive, and forward-looking pathway for achieving an eventual Free Trade Area of Asia-Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the TPP would lead to an overall gain of over seventy-seven billion dollars in social welfare for the United States and all other members; and

WHEREAS, given the important role that Taiwan plays in commercial aviation and the global economy, it is vital that Taiwan participates as an observer in the ICAO and UNFCCC; meaningful participation by Taiwan as an observer in the ICAO will enhance efforts to improve safety and procedures and develop a global strategy to address aviation security threats, and as an observer in the UNFCCC, Taiwan would greatly contribute to global efforts aimed at reducing and preventing natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, in light of the controversies in the East China Sea and the Diaoyutai islands, it is necessary to call on all parties concerned to resolve disputes peacefully; in order to seek out a path to coexistence and mutual prosperity, the government of the Republic of China proposes the East China Sea Peace Initiative in an effort to make the East China Sea a place of peace and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Steve Hsia, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, and his office have further advanced economic and educational cooperation between Taiwan and Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the year 2014 marks the twenty-ninth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Taiwan and Louisiana, as well as the thirty-fourth anniversary of the sister-city relationship between the city of Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby commends the Republic of China (Taiwan) for positive development between Taiwan and the state of Louisiana and the twenty-ninth anniversary

of the sister-state relationship between Taiwan and Louisiana and the thirty-fourth anniversary of the sister-city relationship between the city of Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana House of Representatives hereby encourages closer economic relationships between Taiwan and the United States through negotiation of a free trade agreement and bilateral investment agreement between Taiwan and the United States and through Taiwan's membership in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana House of Representatives hereby expresses support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and for the East China Sea Peace Initiative and the Taiwan-Japan Fisheries Agreement, both of which contribute to regional peace and economic cooperation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana House of Representatives hereby commends Steve Hsia, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, for his efforts and contributions for enhancing cooperation between Taiwan and Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Steve Hsia, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES