

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARNOLD

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 the mutual recognition of driver's licenses between Taiwan and the state of Louisiana, to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations, and to welcome and commend Director General Louis M. Huang 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-first largest economy, fourteenth most competitive economy worldwide, twentieth largest export economy, eighteenth largest import economy, fifth largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, twelfth largest United States trading partner, twelfth largest United States import market, sixteenth largest United States export market, and the largest per capita importer of United States agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is one of Louisiana's most important export markets with three hundred ninety-five million dollars worth of products imported by Taiwan in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bobby Jindal made his first visit to Taiwan in January of 2014 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 bilateral investment between Louisiana and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, with the approval of the United States Department of Energy granted in February of 2014, Taiwan will begin a long-term plan to import shale gas from Louisiana, which is to begin in 2018 and is estimated to be a multibillion dollar business opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Asia Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC), and a bilateral free trade agreement between Taiwan and the United States would substantially reduce 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 more than seventy-seven billion dollars in social welfare for the United States and all other members; and

WHEREAS, streamlining the exchange of valid noncommercial driver's licenses for a Louisiana applicant in Taiwan and an applicant from Taiwan living in Louisiana is part of the effort to upgrade the business-friendly environment for business people of Taiwan and Louisiana; this exchange would encourage mutual trade and investments; 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 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (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, 2015 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Taiwan and Louisiana, as well as the thirty-fifth anniversary of the sister-city relationship between the city of Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Houston, Texas, and his office continue to work towards advancing economic and educational cooperation between Taiwan and Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage 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 encourages and supports the mutual recognition of noncommercial driver's licenses between Taiwan and the state of Louisiana.

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, does hereby celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Louisiana and Taiwan and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the sister-city relationship between the city of Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge, and does hereby commend Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, for his efforts and contributions towards enhancing cooperation between Taiwan and Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES