

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY REPRESENTATIVE ADAMS

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Republic of China, known as Taiwan, for positive economic relations with Louisiana, to encourage closer economic relations between Taiwan and the United States, to support the mutual recognition of noncommercial driver's licenses between Taiwan and Louisiana, to congratulate president-elect Ing-Wen Tsai, and to commend Mr. Louis M. Huang.

WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan engage in robust bilateral trade; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the ninth largest United States trading partner, the largest per capita importer of United States agricultural products, and the sixth largest trading partner of Louisiana in Asia; and

WHEREAS, Formosa Petrochemical Corp. is now planning an estimated nine billion four hundred million dollar industrial complex in St. James Parish where the company would build two project phases producing ethylene and a host of downstream chemical products, through which Formosa would create one thousand two hundred new direct jobs with an average annual salary of eighty-four thousand five hundred dollars plus benefits and result in eight thousand new indirect jobs for a total of nine thousand two hundred new jobs in Louisiana; and

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

WHEREAS, Taiwan remains a beacon of democracy and the only full-fledged democracy in the Chinese-speaking world; and

WHEREAS, a general election in Taiwan was held on January 16, 2016, in which Dr. Ing-Wen Tsai, the chairwoman of the Democratic Progressive Party, was elected as the first female President; and

WHEREAS, President-elect Tsai, who is an expert on trade and who took part in the Taiwan-U.S. bilateral trade negotiations, was a major negotiator for Taiwan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2002; and

WHEREAS, President-elect Tsai is familiar with and concerned about mutual interests between Taiwan and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States and the state of Louisiana will benefit from closer economic relationships with Taiwan by negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA) and a bilateral investment agreement (BIA) and from U.S. support for Taiwan's membership in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); and

WHEREAS, the Business Roundtable's study shows that America's FTA partners purchased ten and four-tenths times more goods per capita from Louisiana than non-FTA countries did; and

WHEREAS, international trade supports more than five hundred thousand Louisiana jobs; and

WHEREAS, trade and investment liberalization policies save the average Louisiana family of four more than ten thousand dollars per year; and

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

WHEREAS, given the important role Taiwan plays in global aviation security, inclusion of Taiwan as a participant in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) would help develop a global strategy to address aviation security threats; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has passed a landmark Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act to cut carbon emissions to fifty percent of 2005 levels by 2050 and announced its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to commit itself to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by fifty percent from the current level by 2030, which shows that accommodating Taiwan's participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) would help continue global efforts against harmful climate change.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby do the following:

(1) Present heartfelt congratulations to president-elect Ing-Wen Tsai for her election and admire the Taiwanese people for showing their commitment to democracy.

(2) Encourage closer economic relationships between Taiwan and the United States by encouraging negotiations of a FTA and a BIA between Taiwan and the United States and by supporting Taiwan's membership in the TPP.

(3) Encourage and support the mutual recognition of noncommercial driver's licenses between Taiwan and Louisiana.

(4) Support Taiwan's meaningful participation in the ICAO and UNFCCC.

(5) Celebrate the thirty-first anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Louisiana and Taiwan and the thirty-sixth anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Taichung City and Baton Rouge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Mr. Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, for efforts and contributions toward enhancing cooperation between Taiwan and Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Louis M. Huang.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES