INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: Recognizes the economic ties and friendship that the United States and Louisiana have with the Republic of China (Taiwan)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express recognition and encouragement of Taiwan's economic ties and friendship with the United States and Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 was created to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan currently ranks as our nation's eighth largest trading partner and as of March 2022, bilateral trade in goods were approximately thirty-two billion two hundred million dollars; and

WHEREAS, a robust trade and investment partnership between these two countries provide a solid foundation for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement, which will spur job creation, expand the global market, and secure international supply chains; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan, in addition to being in a great position to revitalize the global supply chain, is committed to helping address global challenges from humanitarian crises to nontraditional security threats, which has been especially demonstrated through Taiwan's efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Taiwan donated ten million face masks to countries in need, of which two million masks were sent to the United States, and its disease prevention measures, known as the Taiwan Model, have received global recognition and has bolstered unprecedented international support for Taiwan's bid to participate in the World Health Assembly; and
WHEREAS, during the coronavirus pandemic, Taiwan and the United States signed the Taiwan-U.S. Anti-Epidemic Partnership, also known as the Partnership against Coronavirus, to demonstrate the two countries collaborative efforts and determination to combat the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in addition to past collaborations that involve combating the coronavirus pandemic, the two countries have partnered together on a range of issues to promote common values of freedom, democracy, and human rights and have created programs, such as the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, which Taiwan along with the United States and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association jointly administer to promote Taiwan's expertise in a wide variety of fields, such as human rights, women's empowerment, digital economy and cybersecurity, and public health; and

WHEREAS, in addition to creating and maintaining international bonds with our nation, Taiwan has also developed a strong and special bond with this state; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the thirty-seventh anniversary of the sister state relationship between Louisiana and Taiwan, a bond nurtured through mutually beneficial exchanges; and

WHEREAS, an example of those mutually beneficial exchanges, is the successful and profitable bilateral trade between Taiwan and Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Louisiana's exports to Taiwan reached approximately three hundred ninety million dollars in commodities and Louisiana's imports from Taiwan reached approximately one hundred thirty-two million dollars in Taiwanese commodities; and

WHEREAS, not only has Taiwan's unwavering friendship with this nation and its sister state, Louisiana, proven to be fathomless throughout the decades, both the United States and Louisiana have benefitted immensely and continue to benefit immensely from Taiwan's economic investment and companionship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its recognition and encouragement of Taiwan’s economic ties and friendship with the United States and Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express all of the following:
(1) Support for a bilateral trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan for Taiwan's participation in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

(2) Support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the World Health Assembly.

(3) Support for Louisiana to establish a partnership with Taiwan through the National Guard State Partnership program to build on our decades of mutually beneficial relations.

(4) Support for recognition of the forty-third anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act and the thirty-seventh anniversary of the sister state relationship between Louisiana and Taiwan.

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

DIGEST

Expresses recognition and encouragement of Taiwan's economic ties and friendship with the United States and Louisiana.