

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To encourage closer economic relationships between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and support its meaningful participation in various international organizations.

WHEREAS, for decades the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have fostered a close relationship of mutual economic, cultural, and strategic benefit; and

WHEREAS, bilateral trade between the U.S. and Taiwan reached \$76 billion in 2018, making Taiwan the eleventh largest trading partner of the U.S. and the largest per capita importer of U.S. agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, both nations could realize further economic gains through establishing a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) as well as enhancing platforms such as a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) and Digital Economy Forum (DEF); and

WHEREAS, Taiwan maintains biennial agricultural procurement missions to the U.S. to sign multibillion dollar supply deals and routinely dispatches a substantial delegation to participate in the SelectUSA Investment Summit; and

WHEREAS, the World Economic Forum's 2018 Global Competitiveness Report rated Taiwan thirteenth among one hundred forty economies and recognized Taiwan as one of the World's Four Super Innovators, resulting from wide-ranging regulatory efforts to build an environment conducive to financial sector development and foreign direct investment, and underscoring the impact of Taiwan's 5+2 industrial innovation initiative targeting the high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, green energy, national defense, smart machinery, and Internet of Things as well as the circular economy and new agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has paid two visits to underscore the close ties between our two countries; and

WHEREAS, President Tsai Ing-wen has met with Governor John Bel Edwards to highlight the agreement between Taiwan's CPC Corporation and Cheniere Energy for a \$25 billion, twenty-five year purchase of Louisiana liquified natural gas, and the economic

benefit of Formosa Petrochemical's multibillion dollar investment in St. James Parish, as well as the remarkable accomplishment of signing a driver's license reciprocity agreement between Louisiana and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 has continued to provide a sturdy foundation for robust U.S.-Taiwan relations to flourish for forty years, contributing to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, this year the Taiwan Travel Act was passed by both chambers of the U.S. Congress and signed by President Trump to encourage high-level officials' visits between our two countries; both countries have further affirmed the partnership in such areas as international humanitarian assistance, public health, and technology under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) established in June 2015; and

WHEREAS, 2019 marks the thirty-fourth anniversary of the Louisiana-Taiwan sister-state relations, which have nurtured and maintained a friendship built upon unwavering bonds beneficial and rewarding for both governments and their citizens now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, travel from Taiwan to the United States increased by more than fifty percent since Taiwan's participation in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012, EVA Air launched their direct Taipei-Houston route in 2015, and Taiwan joined the U.S. Global Entry program in November 2017, all of these are significant efforts that will continue to promote tourism and encourage exchanges between the two countries; and

WHEREAS, nontraditional security threats are increasing and the meaningful participation and inclusion of Taiwan to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the World Health Assembly (WHA) would be beneficial to all nations and their people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage closer economic relationships between the United States and Taiwan by negotiating a BTA between the two countries, commends Taiwan's inclusion in the U.S. Global Entry and Visa Waiver Program to encourage economic and cultural exchanges, and supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in the INTERPOL, ICAO, UNFCCC, and WHA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Peter Chen, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES