

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY REPRESENTATIVE CONNICK

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: Encourages closer economic relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the negotiation of a bilateral trade agreement between the two countries

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To encourage closer economic relationships between the United States and the Republic of
3 China (Taiwan) and the negotiation of a bilateral trade agreement between the two
4 countries.

5 WHEREAS, for decades, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have
6 fostered a close relationship that has been of mutual economic, cultural, and strategic
7 benefit; bilateral trade between the U.S. and Taiwan reached \$76 billion in 2018, making
8 Taiwan the eleventh largest trading partner of the U.S. and the largest per capita importer
9 of U.S. agricultural products; both nations could realize further economic gains through the
10 establishment of a bilateral trade agreement and by enhancing such platforms as a Trade and
11 Investment Framework Agreement and Digital Economy Forum; and

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

15 WHEREAS, the World Economic Forum's 2018 Global Competitiveness Report
16 rated Taiwan thirteenth among one hundred forty economies and recognized Taiwan as one
17 of the World's Four Super Innovators, resulting from wide-ranging regulatory efforts to build
18 an environment conducive to financial sector development and foreign direct investment and
19 underscoring the impact of Taiwan's five-plus-two industrial innovation initiative targeting
20 the high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, green energy, national defense,

1 smart machinery, and internet of things, as well as the circular economy and new agriculture;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen was elected on January 16, 2016, and
4 has since paid two visits to Houston, Texas, to underscore the close ties between the two
5 countries; during her most recent visit, in August of 2018, Governor John Bel Edwards
6 joined President Tsai at a business roundtable, highlighting the agreement between Taiwan's
7 CPC Corporation and Houston-headquartered Cheniere for a \$25 billion, twenty-five-year
8 purchase of Louisiana LNG, the economic benefit of Formosa Petrochemical's \$9.4 billion
9 investment in St. James Parish, and the remarkable accomplishment of signing a driver's
10 license reciprocity agreement between Louisiana and Taiwan on August 14, 2018; and

11 WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 has continued to provide a sturdy
12 foundation for the flourishing of robust U.S.-Taiwan relations for forty years, contributing
13 to continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region; this year, the Taiwan Travel Act
14 was passed by both chambers of the U.S. Congress and signed by President Trump to
15 encourage high-level officials' visits between the two countries; and both countries have
16 further affirmed the partnership in such areas as international humanitarian assistance, public
17 health, and technology under the U.S.-Taiwan Global Cooperation and Training Framework
18 established in 2015; and

19 WHEREAS, travel from Taiwan to the U.S. has increased by more than fifty percent
20 since Taiwan's participation in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012, EVA Air launched
21 its direct Taipei-Houston route in 2015, and Taiwan joined the U.S. Global Entry program
22 in November 2017; these significant efforts will continue to promote tourism and encourage
23 exchanges between the two peoples; and

24 WHEREAS, nontraditional security threats are increasing in the twenty-first century,
25 and the meaningful participation and inclusion of Taiwan, the twenty-second largest
26 economy in the world, in the International Criminal Police Organization, the International
27 Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,
28 and the World Health Assembly would be beneficial to all nations and their people; and

29 WHEREAS, this year marks the thirty-fourth anniversary of the sister-state
30 relationship between the state of Louisiana and Taiwan, which has nurtured and maintained

1 a friendship built on unwavering bonds beneficial and rewarding for both governments and
2 their citizens now and in the future.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
4 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage closer economic relationships between the
5 United States and Taiwan and the negotiation of a bilateral trade agreement between the two
6 countries.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
8 of Louisiana does hereby commend Taiwan's inclusion in the U.S. Global Entry program and
9 Visa Waiver program for the purpose of encouraging economic and cultural exchanges and
10 does hereby support Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Criminal Police
11 Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Framework
12 Convention on Climate Change, and the World Health Assembly.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
14 of Louisiana does hereby celebrate the thirty-fourth anniversary of the sister-state
15 relationship between Louisiana and Taiwan and the fortieth anniversary of the Taiwan
16 Relations Act and does hereby commend Peter Chen, Director General of the Taipei
17 Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas, for efforts and contributions towards
18 enhancing cooperation between Louisiana and Taiwan.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
20 to Peter Chen.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 14 Original

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Connick

Encourages closer economic relationships between the U.S. and Taiwan and the negotiation of a bilateral trade agreement between the two countries; commends Taiwan's inclusion in the U.S. Global Entry and Visa Waiver Program; supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Criminal Police Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the World Health Assembly; celebrates the 34th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between La. and Taiwan and the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act; and commends Peter Chen, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.