SLS 19RS-309 **ORIGINAL**

2019 Regular Session

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Encourages closer economic ties between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and supports its meaningful participation in various international organizations.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2 To encourage closer economic relationships between the United States and the Republic of 3 China (Taiwan) and support its meaningful participation in various international 4 organizations. 5 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 6 7 WHEREAS, bilateral trade between the U.S. and Taiwan reached \$76 billion in 8 2018, making Taiwan the eleventh largest trading partner of the U.S. and the largest per 9 capita importer of U.S. agricultural products; and 10 WHEREAS, both nations could realize further economic gains through establishing 11 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 12 13 WHEREAS, Taiwan maintains biennial agricultural procurement missions to the 14 U.S. to sign multibillion dollar supply deals and routinely dispatches a substantial delegation to participate in the SelectUSA Investment Summit; and 15 16 WHEREAS, the World Economic Forum's 2018 Global Competitiveness Report 17 rated Taiwan thirteenth among one hundred forty economies and recognized Taiwan as one 18 of the World's Four Super Innovators, resulting from wide-ranging regulatory efforts to build

1 an environment conducive to financial sector development and foreign direct investment, 2 and underscoring the impact of Taiwan's 5+2 industrial innovation initiative targeting the 3 high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, green energy, national defense, smart 4 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 5 6 close ties between our two countries; and 7 WHEREAS, President Tsai Ing-wen has met with Governor John Bel Edwards to 8 highlight the agreement between Taiwan's CPC Corporation and Cheniere Energy for a \$25 9 billion, twenty-five year purchase of Louisiana liquified natural gas, and the economic 10 benefit of Formosa Petrochemical's multibillion dollar investment in St. James Parish, as 11 well as the remarkable accomplishment of signing a driver's license reciprocity agreement 12 between Louisiana and Taiwan; and 13 WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 has continued to provide a sturdy 14 foundation for robust U.S.-Taiwan relations to flourish for forty years, contributing to peace 15 and stability in the Asia-Pacific region; and 16 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 17 18 between our two countries; both countries have further affirmed the partnership in such areas 19 as international humanitarian assistance, public health, and technology under the Global 20 Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) established in June 2015; and 21 WHEREAS, 2019 marks the thirty-fourth anniversary of the Louisiana-Taiwan sister-state relations, which have nurtured and maintained a friendship built upon 22 23 unwavering bonds beneficial and rewarding for both governments and their citizens now and 24 in the future; and 25 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 26 27 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 28 29 tourism and encourage exchanges between the two countries; and

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1	WHEREAS, nontraditional security threats are increasing and the meaningful
2	participation and inclusion of Taiwan to the International Criminal Police Organization
3	(INTERPOL), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations
4	Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the World Health Assembly
5	(WHA) would be beneficial to all nations and their people.
6	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7	encourage closer economic relationships between the United States and Taiwan by
8	negotiating a BTA between the two countries, commends Taiwan's inclusion in the U.S.
9	Global Entry and Visa Waiver Program to encourage economic and cultural exchanges, and
10	supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in the INTERPOL, ICAO, UNFCCC, and WHA.
11	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to
12	Mr. Peter Chen, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston,
13	Texas.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

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Walsworth

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