

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY REPRESENTATIVE ADAMS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: Encourages closer economic ties and friendship between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Louisiana and commends President-elect Ing-Wen Tsai, the Taiwanese people, and Louis M. Huang

1 A RESOLUTION

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

7 WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan engage in robust bilateral trade; and
8 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the ninth largest United States trading partner, the largest per
9 capita importer of United States agricultural products, and the sixth largest trading partner
10 of Louisiana in Asia; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 46 Original

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Adams

Encourages closer economic relationships between Taiwan and the United States, encourages and supports the mutual recognition of noncommercial driver's licenses between Taiwan and the state of Louisiana, congratulates president-elect Ing-Wen Tsai for her election, and commends 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.