

POLICY POSITION

1. ENCOURAGING THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES-SOUTH KOREAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

The Republic of South Korea has created and expanded numerous industrial efforts throughout the Southern United States, creating an annual cash flow to the region of approximately \$20 billion. South Korean-based manufacturers have located a number of facilities in the region, including very large investments in the form of manufacturing facilities by Hyundai in Alabama and Kia in Georgia, which have expanded economic opportunities across the region, directly and indirectly employing tens of thousands of workers at competitive wages.

Additionally, investment in the region by South Korean businesses supports a wide range of secondary businesses, including construction industries, professional service industries, and other service industries such as transportation, energy, utilities and marketing. This mutually beneficial international relationship is among the most important in the growth and expansion of manufacturing in the region.

RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments encourages states in the region to join together in supporting the tenets of a Southern United States and South Korean Economic Council to:

- promote new and continued trade, economic, and workforce relationships;
- encourage the joint effort of the Southern United States to join together as a region to support and cooperate with the Republic of South Korea for mutual benefit particularly relating to economic concerns,
- retain and support the prosperity of existing businesses, and
- encourage cultural and educational exchange.

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments requests that a copy of this policy position be communicated to the governors, lieutenant governors, and legislative presiding officers of the member states.

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What's in a Name?

by Victoria Ross • May 9, 2014 • 2 min read • [original](#)



State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) participates in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean National Ceremony where the Korean War dead are buried. In August, Marsden and his wife, Julia, spent a week in South Korea as guests of the Government of the Republic of Korea. He was invited to discuss his

sponsorship of the “East Sea” bill, and also to present a resolution from the Southern Legislative Conference encouraging trade development between the United States and Korea. Photo Contributed

Alexandria — Virginia’s gubernatorial candidates Ken Cuccinelli (R) and Terry McAuliffe (D) may be light years apart on most issues, but on one issue they’ve reached a consensus.

Last month, they both pledged support to Virginia’s growing population of Korean Americans to use the dual names of “East Sea” and “Sea of Japan” to denote the body of water between Korea and Japan in Virginia’s textbooks. Koreans view the “Sea of Japan” designation as a legacy of Japanese colonial rule.



Currently, more than 2.5 million Korean-Americans reside in the U.S. and nearly 150,000 of them live in Virginia.

“As governor, going forward, I will wholeheartedly support the effort ... to have our textbooks and other teaching materials reflect the concurrent names as we pursue education excellence in Virginia,” Cuccinelli wrote in a Sept. 16 letter to the Korean Community of Virginia.

“As governor, I will ensure that as new texts are purchased or downloaded, they reflect this important historical truth ...,” McAuliffe wrote to the Korean Community of Virginia on Sept. 25.

For the past year, state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) has been leading Virginia’s legislative efforts to add the “East Sea” in public school textbooks.

Marsden has been working with Peter Y. Kim, a Chantilly businessman, who is president of the non-profit Voice of Korean Americans (VoKA). In January, Kim formed VOKA to promote the use of “the East Sea,” contending the naming dispute is critical to Korean Americans for a number of reasons.



“The entire Korean-American community in Virginia is very concerned about the situation, particularly related to educating Korean-American children about their heritage that is currently not recognized by the state,” Kim said.

“The effort is gaining momentum in Virginia,” Marsden said, noting the “East Sea” Bill will require all future textbooks purchased by the Virginia Public Schools of Education to reflect both names.

“What we call things is important, and names have deep meaning,” Marsden said. “This would go a long way in speeding up the integration of our Korean-American population, and making people feel accepted and respected.”

The dispute over the name has been simmering between Japan and South Korea for decades. In 1992, objections to the name Sea of Japan were first raised by North Korea and South Korea at the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Since 1997, South Korea has campaigned the International Hydrographic Organization, the governing body responsible for the naming of bodies of water, for the additional use of the East Sea name on the grounds that the term Sea of Japan only became popular globally during Japan’s colonial rule

of the peninsula. Japan says the name Sea of Japan has been used internationally since the 19th century, before the Korean Peninsula came under Japanese rule.

“What’s important to me as a state representative is that we already teach students about the controversy, so our textbooks ought to reflect that fact,” Marsden said. “All they are looking for is a position of respect.”

Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) announced he is sponsoring a similar bill in the House this year.



“It is not right that their position on this issue be ignored,” said Hugo in a statement. “It is not right that so many of our Korean-American students are taught that there is only one name for this body of water, when their culture and history say otherwise.”

Kim said his group’s final goal is to include “the East Sea” in all textbooks used at elementary, junior high and high schools in 50 states by March 2017, when the International Hydrographic Organization holds a meeting to discuss Seoul’s request for the concurrent use in formal international maps.

“In keeping with America’s high standard of education, our children would benefit from learning geography that includes current geo-political information,” Kim said.

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