

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

WHEREAS, the states of Missouri and Israel share a deep and abiding friendship based on a shared commitment to democratic values; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's own President Harry S Truman announced on May 14, 1948, that the United States would become the first country to recognize the new Nation of Israel; and

WHEREAS, since its establishment, Israel has fulfilled the dreams of its founders who evidence a vigorous, open, and stable democracy; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2009, the people of Israel elected Israel's 18th Knesset, or Parliament, following the resignation of then Prime Minister Ehud Olmert; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2009, President Shimon Peres nominated Benjamin Netanyahu to become the next Prime Minister and was given the task of forming a government; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Israeli Basic Law, on March 31, 2009, the 18th Knesset convened in order to vote on the Prime Minister and the government platform in a "Vote of Confidence". On that date, the 32nd government of Israel was approved and Benjamin Netanyahu became the Prime Minister of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the election on February 10, 2009, and subsequent approval of the government of Israel on March 31, 2009, is the most recent example of the commitment of Israel to the democratic ideals of freedom and pluralism, ideals that Israel shares with the United States:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby:

(1) Express their respect and admiration for the people of Israel;

(2) Commend the people of Israel for reaffirming their dedication to democratic ideals as expressed in their most recent election; and

(3) Restate the mission of the Missouri-Israel Cooperative Agreement, signed by the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the Israeli Ministry of Industry and Trade in 1988, which calls for projects of mutual economic benefit through improved trade, technology development, science, agriculture, and tourism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

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