

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, the state 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, Israel's Declaration of Independence enshrines a foundation of freedom and democracy using the strongest possible language that Israel will "ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture..." This idea is practiced in the unbroken tradition of free and open elections that is a necessary component to any vibrant democracy; and

Whereas, the election on March 17, 2015, 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; and

Whereas, Israel has a special relationship with the state of Missouri through cultural and economic partnerships resulting in numerous Israeli companies locating in Missouri for their North American headquarters as well as the Cooperative agreement between the Chief Science Officer of Israel and the Missouri Department of Economic Development to foster strategic partnerships between Israeli- and Missouri-based companies developing cutting edge technologies in agricultural science and other key technologies:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First 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 the election on March 17, 2015; and
- (3) Restate the mission of the Missouri-Israel Cooperative Agreement, signed by the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the Israel 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 Director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

Resolution

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