

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 204

Introduced by Council, 11; Cook, 13; McGill, 26; Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7.

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey and the United States of America are long-standing allies, both cherishing the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, in its alliances with the United States, Turkey has demonstrated its commitment to peace and liberty, as well as its political and religious tolerance; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately five hundred thousand Turkish Americans in the United States and a growing number in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska values its vibrant and mutually beneficial relationship with Turkey, the world's fifteenth largest economy and Europe's sixth largest economy, and is excited at the prospect of future growth; and

WHEREAS, expanding the relationship between Nebraska and Turkey is economically and culturally worthy; and

WHEREAS, a prominent project spearheaded by the University of Nebraska in the post-war era was the founding of Ataturk University in 1955. University of Nebraska faculty was involved for thirteen years in helping the country establish a new university based on the American land-grant model; and

WHEREAS, many Turkish scholars and professors have been teaching and studying at Nebraska universities for decades; and

WHEREAS, agricultural practices of Turkey and Nebraska have enjoyed improvement as a result of many exchanges of information; and

WHEREAS, agricultural productivity in Turkey has been profoundly improved by the irrigation systems produced by Nebraska companies; and

WHEREAS, the Niagara Foundation of Nebraska, a not-for-profit organization subsidized by citizens of Turkey and America, has recognized the efforts of influential Nebraskans for their contributions to the atmosphere of tolerance and diversity in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the Turkish American Society of Nebraska, a not-for-profit organization, is instrumental in assisting many displaced immigrants invited to Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Nebraska to further cultivate the relationship with Turkey and other Turkic nations; and

WHEREAS, the friendship between Nebraska and the Republic of Turkey is important and merits recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature honors the friendship between Nebraska and the Republic of Turkey.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Ismail Ozcan, Executive Director of the Niagara Foundation of Nebraska.