



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

September 9, 2003

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES SENATE RESOLUTION 212 (FEINSTEIN) IN HONORING THE DALAI LAMA IN HIS COMMITMENT TO NON-VIOLENCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council supports United States Senate Resolution 212 (Feinstein) in honoring the Dalai Lama in his commitment to non-violence, human rights, freedom and democracy.

BACKGROUND:

The Dalai Lama will be visiting the United States in September 2003 and should be recognized for his tireless efforts to promote a peaceful dialogue between Tibet and the Chinese Government over religious and cultural autonomy of the Tibetan people.

Mrs. Diane Feinstein submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

Full Text of S.Res.212
108th Congress
1st Session
S. Res. 212

Welcoming His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama and recognizing his commitment to non-violence, human rights, freedom, and democracy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
July 31 (legislative day, July 21), 2003

RESOLUTION

Welcoming His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama and recognizing his commitment to non-violence, human rights, freedom, and democracy.

Whereas for over 40 years in exile, His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama has used his position and leadership to promote compassion and non-violence as a solution to not only the present crisis in Tibet, but to other long-running conflicts around the world;

Whereas the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 in recognition of his efforts to seek a peaceful resolution to the situation in Tibet, and to promote nonviolent methods for resolving conflict;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has been a strong voice for the basic human rights of all peoples, particularly freedom of religion;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has personally promoted democratic self-government for Tibetans in exile as a model for securing freedom for all Tibet, including relinquishing his political positions and turning these authorities over to elected Tibetan representatives;

Whereas the Dalai Lama seeks a solution for Tibet that provides genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people and does not call for independence and separation from the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the envoys of the Dalai Lama have traveled to China and Tibet twice in the past year to begin discussions with Chinese authorities on a permanent negotiated settlement of the Tibet issue;

Whereas the successful advancement of these discussions is in the strong interest of both the Chinese and Tibetan people; and

Whereas it is the policy of the United States to support substantive dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that-

the visit of the Dalai Lama to the United States in September 2003 is warmly welcomed;

the Dalai Lama should be recognized and congratulated for his consistent efforts to promote dialogue to peacefully resolve the Tibet issue and to increase the religious and cultural autonomy of the Tibetan people; and

all parties to the current discussions should be encouraged by the Government of the United States to deepen these contacts in order to achieve the aspirations of the people of Tibet for genuine autonomy and basic human rights.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSON:

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