

RESOLUTION 2-S.F.No. 686

A resolution memorializing the President and Congress to condemn the government of Iran because of its action against Salman Rushdie and to refuse efforts to return frozen Iranian assets to Iran.

WHEREAS, the people of the state of Minnesota have recognized, through their own Constitution and their acceptance of the Constitution of the United States of America, the fundamental human rights of free expression; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Minnesota have always strongly defended the right of free speech as well as other natural, universal human rights recognized in the Minnesota Constitution and the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, United States of America has long been acknowledged as a haven of these human rights, including that of free speech; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Minnesota were outraged to learn of the condemnation by the Iranian government of Salman Rushdie for his authorship of the literary work known as "The Satanic Verses"; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Minnesota consider that condemnation of the exercise of a fundamental right by Mr. Khomeini and his government to be an act of barbarism unworthy of any legitimate government or country; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Minnesota are concerned that the effect of this barbaric action by the government of Iran is a chilling effect on free speech and the free circulation of ideas within the state of Minnesota and elsewhere within the United States resulting in booksellers taking Mr. Rushdie's book from their shelves in fear of retribution; and

WHEREAS, the people of the state of Minnesota strongly condemn the actions of the government of Iran in suppressing the fundamental right of free speech and offer their state as a sanctuary for Mr. Rushdie and any and all other individuals whose human rights are suppressed by the current barbaric government of Iran; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that the President and Congress speedily act to strongly condemn the actions of the government of Iran in suppressing the fundamental right of free speech and that the President and Congress refuse any and all efforts to return frozen Iranian assets to the government of Iran and instead allocate those assets to refugees of that corrupt and barbaric regime.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to transmit certified copies of this memorial to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Chief Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Presented to the governor April 5, 1989

Filed April 6, 1989