

WHEREAS, many residents of the State of Minnesota are currently engaged in railroad employment or have engaged in such employment in the past and look to the railroad retirement system to provide benefits when they retire; and

WHEREAS, many residents of the State of Minnesota are currently receiving benefits under the railroad retirement system and rely on such benefits to a large extent to meet the normal costs of living; and

WHEREAS, any reduction in the amount of benefits received by beneficiaries under the railroad retirement system would have a drastic affect on the ability of these beneficiaries to meet normal living expenses; and

WHEREAS, projections of the financial condition of the railroad retirement system show that unless corrective action is taken, monthly annuities will have to be reduced significantly beginning with the annuity checks to be sent out October 1, 1983, with additional reductions required in the future; and

WHEREAS, a bill, H.R. 1646, titled the Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983, was introduced in the United States House of Representatives on February 24, 1983, by Mr. Florio; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1646 would resolve the short-term and long-term financial problems of the railroad retirement system, through an even-handed approach of tax increases on railroad employers and employees and adjustments of benefits to current and future beneficiaries, thereby preserving and protecting the rights and expectations of those currently receiving benefits and those who would receive such benefits in the future; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that the members of Congress should vote favorably on H.R. 1646, the Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983.

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

Approved April 22, 1983

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#### RESOLUTION 5 — H.F.No. 1059

*A resolution memorializing the President and Congress of the United States to take immediate steps to curb the sources of acid rain.*

Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

WHEREAS, acid rain is becoming our number one environmental problem across the United States and Canada with a potential of destroying agricultural crops, forestry, aquatic life, and causing damage to structural buildings; and

WHEREAS, the long-range transport of atmospheric pollutants can cause acid rain far from emission source and is a growing interstate and international problem; and

WHEREAS, current provisions of the Clean Air Act are not adequate to address the problems of acid rain, and present and future generations will be more adversely affected by delayed action; and

WHEREAS, acid rain contributes to the increasing levels of heavy metal concentrations in public reservoirs and waterways which can pose a threat to human health; and

WHEREAS, acid rain has destroyed aquatic life in lakes, retarded certain forest and agricultural crop growth, and corroded metals and public buildings and statues; and

WHEREAS, in the Voyageurs National Park and Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, recent tests show high acidity in the lakes which scientists fear will cause serious damage to their whole ecosystems if the conditions remain unchecked; and

WHEREAS, the problem of acid rain is a serious threat to the tourism component of Minnesota's economy and the friendly relations with our neighbors in Canada; and

WHEREAS, Canada's Minister of the Environment identifies acid rain as "the single greatest irritant to the United States-Canadian relationship"; and

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States signed a 1980 Memorandum of Intent to combat transboundary air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Canada has already achieved cuts of 25 percent in sulfur emissions and a promise of 50 percent cuts by 1990 if the United States agrees to do the same; and

WHEREAS, the state of Minnesota has enacted a 1982 law designed to curb the sources of acid deposition within our state; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has identified that significant areas of Minnesota may be damaged by the effects of acid precipitation; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that the President and Congress should take immediate action in this session of Congress to reduce the sources of acid rain by amendment to the Clean Air Act, or by

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separate legislation, and by providing adequate funding to the Environmental Protection Agency for monitoring and enforcement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is instructed to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States, to the Minnesota Senators and Representatives in Congress, to the Premiers of Manitoba and Ontario and to the Ambassador of Canada to the United States.

Approved June 1, 1983

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**RESOLUTION 6 — S.F.No. 863**

*A resolution memorializing the President and Secretary of State of the United States to protest discrimination against Soviet Jews and seek an end to restrictions on their emigration.*

WHEREAS, the current policies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics seeks to destroy the cultural and linguistic identity of Soviet Jews, in violation of the Soviet Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet government has pursued a policy that severely restricts the exercise of religion by Soviet Jews and other religious groups; and

WHEREAS, Soviet Jews have been the target of a systematic propaganda campaign in the Soviet press, and the victims of official discrimination in employment and higher education; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union has virtually halted emigration by Soviet Jews seeking the freedom to live their cultural and religious values; and

WHEREAS, the right to emigrate is contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the right to family reunification is recognized by the signatories to the Helsinki Accords, including the Soviet Union; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that the policies of the government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that discriminate against Jews are morally repugnant and a violation of basic human rights. The President and the Secretary of State of the United States express in the strongest possible way the opposition of the United States government to these anti-Semitic policies and antireligious policies of the Soviet government and urge that government to end its restrictions on the emigration of Soviet Jews.

Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.