

RESOLUTION 4-H.F.No. 661

A resolution memorializing Canada to correct the new permit regulations for the Canada-Minnesota border, and to encourage federal, state, and provincial governments to resolve differences to the mutual benefit and satisfaction of the citizens of both countries.

WHEREAS, on February 13, 1991, the Canadian immigration service imposed new entry permit rules for crossing the International Border from Lake of the Woods to Pigeon River; and

WHEREAS, the new permits are difficult to obtain, limited in scope, extremely burdensome in practice, and of no apparent use for ordinary purposes of border control; and

WHEREAS, open input by citizens of both the United States and Canada was not solicited; and

WHEREAS, the new rules put an impossible economic burden on thousands of people whose livelihoods depend on reasonable access to the lakes and forests of the boundary area; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Canada-United States border in Minnesota has been one of cooperation and accommodation; and

WHEREAS, the great wilderness along the border has a matchless value for the people of the two countries that can only be enjoyed as a whole and will be destroyed by any effort to make it into two isolated parts; and

WHEREAS, this border does not resemble other international frontiers and has always been administered for the mutual advantage of all concerned people of both countries; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult even to understand what the purpose of these disruptive new rules could be; and

WHEREAS, it is the confident hope of the people of Minnesota that their friends in Canada will quickly correct this uncharacteristic new situation; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the appropriate federal officials of both Canada and the United States immediately begin a dialogue to the mutual benefit and satisfaction of the citizens of both countries to resolve differences and restrictions to travel and freedom of passage, especially as they relate to remote areas of the United States/Canada border between the province of Ontario and the state of Minnesota that have been imposed by policy, regulation, or law by the governments of both countries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and provincial officials have direct input into the dialogue, discussion, and negotiation which takes place relating to this matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare certified copies of this memorial and transmit them to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, the Ministers of Canadian Government concerned with immigration, customs and other border related matters, the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General of the United States, the committees of Congress concerned with foreign affairs, immigration, and trade, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Presented to the governor April 15, 1991

Signed by the governor April 17, 1991, 3:04 p.m.