

House Joint Resolution 53

Sponsored by Representative THATCHER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Oregonians to divest of investment holdings in foreign companies that have substantial interests in Iran.

JOINT RESOLUTION

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Whereas the people of Iran are members of an ancient, rich and vibrant culture; and

Whereas the Iranian people are the victims of an oppressive regime; and

Whereas the regime is dominated by radical clerics whose goals are contrary to those of the people; and

Whereas the Iranian government is seeking nuclear weapons in defiance of the international community; and

Whereas many experts believe Iran would use any nuclear weapons it acquires to attack the United States, its interests and its allies; and

Whereas the CIA World Factbook states that "Iran has been designated a state sponsor of terrorism for its activities in Lebanon and elsewhere in the world and remains subject to US economic sanctions and export controls because of its continued involvement"; and

Whereas the CIA World Factbook further states that "Iran is a source, transit, and destination country for women and girls trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude; according to foreign observers, women and girls are trafficked to Pakistan, Turkey, the Persian Gulf, and Europe for sexual exploitation, while boys from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are trafficked through Iran en route to Persian Gulf states where they are ultimately forced to work as camel jockeys, beggars, or laborers; Afghan women and girls are trafficked to the country for forced marriages and sexual exploitation; women and children are also trafficked internally for the purposes of forced marriage, sexual exploitation, and involuntary servitude"; and

Whereas the United States Department of State has condemned Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for a "continuing stream of hateful invective," which has included denials that the Holocaust occurred, praise for the stroke suffered by former Israeli premier Ariel Sharon and a desire to see the end of both Israel and the United States; and

Whereas Iran has been recognized as supporting the enemies of America and the people of Iraq, including providing personnel, weapons and operational support that is directly responsible for the injury and death of American service personnel abroad; and

Whereas the United States Department of State has listed Iran as one of only five state sponsors of terrorism, and Iran has been so listed since January 19, 1984; and

Whereas the Iranian regime is able to survive only with the help of foreign investment; and

Whereas this support allows for the continued oppression of the Iranian people and the esca-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 lating threat Iran poses to the peace and stability of the Middle East, and free people everywhere;
2 now, therefore,

3 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

4 That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, ask Oregon's business com-
5 munity, individual investors within the State of Oregon and state investment managers to examine
6 their portfolios carefully to determine if they may have investment holdings in foreign companies
7 that have substantial interests in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and be it further

8 Resolved, That if such investment holdings are found, we urge that these investors find prudent
9 and expedient ways to divest of such holdings, so as not to support the nefarious aims of the Iranian
10 regime; and be it further

11 Resolved, That we reiterate our support for the people of Iran, and send to them wishes for a
12 prosperous and safe future free from the shackles of the theocracy that currently oppresses them,
13 and support their efforts to move toward a government characterized by self-determination, toler-
14 ance for divergent ideas and freedom of expression.

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