

Senate Joint Memorial 3

Sponsored by Senator DECKERT (at the request of Ethiopian-American Council of Portland)

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 President and United States Congress to reexamine United States foreign policy toward Ethiopia.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1 To the President of the United States, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
2 States of America, in Congress assembled:

3 We, your memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, in
4 legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

5 Whereas the noble people of Ethiopia have developed and nourished a proud and distinguished
6 culture that has endured for three millennia; and

7 Whereas Ethiopia has had a long and productive friendship with the United States of America;
8 and

9 Whereas over the past three decades, the brave and gentle people of Ethiopia have been dev-
10 astated by famine and wars; and

11 Whereas the people of the United States have responded generously to the plight of the
12 Ethiopian famine victims through the provision of humanitarian aid; and

13 Whereas Ethiopia, poised at a crucial juncture in its history, is making a dramatic effort to re-
14 place tyranny with democracy; and

15 Whereas the people of Ethiopia are aspiring to resolve their political problems through the
16 formation and utilization of democratic institutions; and

17 Whereas the basic underpinnings of democratic institutions in the new Ethiopia should be the
18 supremacy of the will of the people and the guarantee of the rule of law; and

19 Whereas the Ethiopian government should adhere to the United Nations Universal Declaration
20 of Human Rights that encourages freedom of speech, assembly, religion and press, guarantees all
21 basic human rights, and discourages ethnocentric politics; and

22 Whereas it is crucial that the diverse voices, opinions and philosophies of the Ethiopian people
23 be expressed in the promotion of political, economic and social progress and justice in Ethiopia; and

24 Whereas a democratic, multiparty government may be the most egalitarian, feasible and pro-
25 ductive political arrangement in providing universal suffrage and overcoming monumental obstacles;
26 and

27 Whereas the President of the United States and Congress will play a crucial role in promoting
28 the peaceful resolution of the immense problems of war-ravaged Ethiopia; and

29 Whereas the implementation of a democratic, multiparty government in Ethiopia should be a
30 long-range foreign policy goal of the United States government; now, therefore,
31

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

2 (1) The Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:

3 (a) Encourage the formation of democratic institutions, multiparty participation, progressive so-
4 cial change and respect for human rights in Ethiopia.

5 (b) Condemn the ongoing, state-sponsored violence against the opposition in Ethiopia and are
6 outraged that the ruling party's security forces killed 42 unarmed and defenseless protesters on June
7 6 to 8, 2005, and that to this date an investigation into those killings has not been conducted.

8 (c) Respectfully urge the President of the United States and Congress to reexamine the foreign
9 policy toward Ethiopia and to promote an active foreign policy that declares that the United States
10 does not tolerate dictators that oppress and abuse their citizens.

11 (d) Respectfully urge the President of the United States to encourage the Prime Minister of
12 Ethiopia to guarantee the safety and security of elected opposition leaders, to release from prison
13 all students, journalists and members and supporters of the opposition parties, and to respect the
14 democratic opposition's right to public assembly and access to publicly owned media.

15 (e) Respectfully urge the President of the United States and Congress to help avert the poten-
16 tially explosive situation in Ethiopia by supporting a peaceful transitional arrangement.

17 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be forwarded to President George W. Bush, the leadership of
18 the United States Congress, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and His Excellency the Ethiopian
19 Ambassador Kassahun Ayele.

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