



Chinese American Citizens Alliance 52nd Biennial Convention 2013

RESOLUTION # 24 — Submitted by Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge

TITLE: Resolution to Seek a Congressional Apology

Whereas, the Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge acknowledges and applauds the achievement of achieving expressions of Congressional expression of regret for premeditated hostile, repressive, and focused Federal actions that violated the rights, harmed the lives, and inflicted hardship on Chinese Americans embodied by the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and subsequent hostile and discriminatory legislation. Such Federal legislation violated the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment as well as the fundamental precept that “all men are created equal” expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

Whereas, the Brothers and Sisters have reflected upon the Congressional expression of regret by the Congress of the United States. The itemized justifications for expression of regret in the House’s and particularly the Senate’s Resolution present a prima facie justification for an apology. An apology is more appropriate as it is also an admission of wrong doing. A regret does not include and admission of guilt.

Whereas, apologies by the United States Congress and President have been given to African Americans, Native Americans, Hawaiian Americans, and Japanese Americans. Expressing regret to Chinese Americans is disparate and second class. We should seek equal treatment as we suffered similar denial of civil rights, persecution, legitimized racial discrimination, and induced trauma that persists within the Chinese community.

We understand and respect the efforts it took to achieve Congressional expression of regret. However we feel strongly that an apology is appropriate.

Therefore; we submit the resolutions for House and Senate apologies using the language of the Resolutions expressing regret by replacing “regret” with “apology”(House Res. 683 and Senate Res. 201). In addition minor modifications and additions were made in a “Whereas” to more fully describe contributions of Chinese Americans to the United States. (Per attached exhibit A, Section 1 and 3)

APOLOGY RESOLUTIONS PACKET FILE CONTENTS

- 1) Proposed Senate Apology Resolution (additions and changes are incorporated in sentence case and regular type)
- 2) Proposed Senate Apology Resolution (additions and changes from S. Res. 201 are in caps and italic type)

- 3) Proposed House Apology Resolution (additions and changes are incorporated in sentence case and regular type)
- 4) Proposed House Apology Resolution (additions and changes from H. Res. 683 are in caps and italic type)

Section 1

PROPOSED SENATE APOLOGY RESOLUTION

Apology of the Senate for the passage of discriminatory laws against the Chinese in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

RESOLUTION

Apology of the Senate for the passage of discriminatory laws against the Chinese in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Whereas many Chinese came to the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, as did people from other countries, in search of the opportunity to create a better life for themselves and their families;

Whereas the contributions of persons of Chinese descent in the agriculture, mining, manufacturing, construction, fishing, and canning industries were critical to establishing the foundations for economic growth in the Nation, particularly in the western United States;

Whereas United States industrialists recruited thousands of Chinese workers to assist in the construction of the Nation's first major national transportation infrastructure, the Transcontinental Railroad;

Whereas Chinese laborers, who made up the majority of the western portion of the railroad workforce, faced grueling hours and extremely harsh conditions in order to lay hundreds of miles of track and were paid substandard wages;

Whereas without the tremendous efforts and technical contributions of these Chinese immigrants, the completion of this vital national infrastructure would have been seriously impeded;

Whereas from the middle of the 19th century through the early 20th century, Chinese immigrants faced racial ostracism and violent assaults, including—

- (1) the 1887 Snake River Massacre in Oregon, at which 31 Chinese miners were killed; and
- (2) numerous other incidents, including attacks on Chinese immigrants in Rock Springs, San Francisco, Tacoma, and Los Angeles;

Whereas the United States instigated the negotiation of the Burlingame Treaty, ratified by the Senate on October 19, 1868, which permitted the free movement of the Chinese people to, from, and within the United States and accorded to China the status of “most favored nation”;

Whereas before consenting to the ratification of the Burlingame Treaty, the Senate required that the Treaty would not permit Chinese immigrants in the United States to be naturalized United States citizens;

Whereas on July 14, 1870, Congress approved An Act to Amend the Naturalization Laws and to Punish Crimes against the Same, and for other Purposes, and during consideration of such Act, the Senate expressly rejected an amendment to allow Chinese immigrants to naturalize;

Whereas Chinese immigrants were subject to the overzealous implementation of the Page Act of 1875 (18 Stat. 477), which--

- (1) ostensibly barred the importation of women from “China, Japan, or any Oriental country” for purposes of prostitution;
- (2) was disproportionately enforced against Chinese women, effectively preventing the formation of Chinese families in the United States and limiting the number of native-born Chinese citizens;

Whereas, on February 15, 1879, the Senate passed “the Fifteen Passenger Bill,” which would have limited the number of Chinese passengers permitted on any ship coming to the United States to 15, with proponents of the bill expressing that the Chinese were “an indigestible element in our midst . . . without any adaptability to become citizens”;

Whereas, on March 1, 1879, President Hayes vetoed the Fifteen Passenger Bill as being incompatible with the Burlingame Treaty, which declared that “Chinese subjects visiting or residing in the United States, shall enjoy the same privileges . . . in respect to travel or residence, as may there be enjoyed by the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation”;

Whereas in the aftermath of the veto of the Fifteen Passenger Bill, President Hayes initiated the renegotiation of the Burlingame Treaty, requesting that the Chinese government consent to restrictions on the immigration of Chinese persons to the United States;

Whereas these negotiations culminated in the Angell Treaty, ratified by the Senate on May 9, 1881, which--

- (1) allowed the United States to suspend, but not to prohibit, the immigration of Chinese laborers;
- (2) declared that “Chinese laborers who are now in the United States shall be allowed to go and come of their own free will”; and
- (3) reaffirmed that Chinese persons possessed “all the rights, privileges, immunities,

and exemptions which are accorded to the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation”;

Whereas, on March 9, 1882, the Senate passed the first Chinese Exclusion Act, which purported to implement the Angell Treaty but instead excluded for 20 years both skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers, rejected an amendment that would have permitted the naturalization of Chinese persons, and instead expressly denied Chinese persons the right to be naturalized as American citizens;

Whereas, on April 4, 1882, President Chester A. Arthur vetoed the first Chinese Exclusion Act as being incompatible with the terms and spirit of the Angell Treaty;

Whereas, on May 6, 1882, Congress passed the second Chinese Exclusion Act, which--
(1) prohibited skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers from entering the United States for 10 years;
(2) was the first Federal law that excluded a single group of people on the basis of race; and
(3) required certain Chinese laborers already legally present in the United States who later wished to reenter to obtain “certificates of return”, an unprecedented requirement that applied only to Chinese residents;

Whereas in response to reports that courts were bestowing United States citizenship on persons of Chinese descent, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 explicitly prohibited all State and Federal courts from naturalizing Chinese persons;

Whereas the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 underscored the belief of some Senators at that time that--
(1) the Chinese people were unfit to be naturalized;
(2) the social characteristics of the Chinese were “revolting”;
(3) Chinese immigrants were “like parasites”; and
(4) the United States “is under God a country of Caucasians, a country of white men, a country to be governed by white men”;

Whereas, on July 3, 1884, notwithstanding United States treaty obligations with China and other nations, Congress broadened the scope of the Chinese Exclusion Act--
(1) to apply to all persons of Chinese descent, “whether subjects of China or any other foreign power”; and
(2) to provide more stringent requirements restricting Chinese immigration;

Whereas, on October 1, 1888, the Scott Act was enacted into law, which--
(1) prohibited all Chinese laborers who would choose or had chosen to leave the United States from reentering;
(2) cancelled all previously issued “certificates of return”, which prevented approximately 20,000 Chinese laborers abroad, including 600 individuals who were en route to the United States, from returning to their families or their homes; and

(3) was later determined by the Supreme Court to have abrogated the Angell Treaty;

Whereas, on May 5, 1892, the Geary Act was enacted into law, which--

- (1) extended the Chinese Exclusion Act for 10 years;
- (2) required all Chinese persons in the United States, but no other race of people, to register with the Federal Government in order to obtain "certificates of residence";
- and
- (3) denied Chinese immigrants the right to be released on bail upon application for a writ of habeas corpus;

Whereas on an explicitly racial basis, the Geary Act deemed the testimony of Chinese persons, including American citizens of Chinese descent, per se insufficient to establish the residency of a Chinese person subject to deportation, mandating that such residence be established through the testimony of "at least one credible white witness";

Whereas in the 1894 Gresham-Yang Treaty, the Chinese government consented to a prohibition of Chinese immigration and the enforcement of the Geary Act in exchange for the readmission of previous Chinese residents;

Whereas in 1898, the United States--

- (1) annexed Hawaii;
- (2) took control of the Philippines; and
- (3) excluded thousands of racially Chinese residents of Hawaii and of the Philippines from entering the United States mainland;

Whereas on April 29, 1902, Congress--

- (1) indefinitely extended all laws regulating and restricting Chinese immigration and residence; and
- (2) expressly applied such laws to United States insular territories, including the Philippines;

Whereas in 1904, after the Chinese government exercised its unilateral right to withdraw from the Gresham-Yang Treaty, Congress permanently extended, "without modification, limitation, or condition", all restrictions on Chinese immigration and naturalization, making the Chinese the only racial group explicitly singled out for immigration exclusion and permanently ineligible for American citizenship;

Whereas between 1910 and 1940, the Angel Island Immigration Station implemented the Chinese exclusion laws by--

- (1) confining Chinese persons for up to nearly 2 years;
- (2) interrogating Chinese persons; and
- (3) providing a model for similar immigration stations at other locations on the Pacific coast and in Hawaii;

Whereas each of the congressional debates concerning issues of Chinese civil rights, naturalization, and immigration involved intensely racial rhetoric, with many Members of

Congress claiming that all persons of Chinese descent were--

- (1) unworthy of American citizenship;
- (2) incapable of assimilation into American society; and
- (3) dangerous to the political and social integrity of the United States;

Whereas the express discrimination in these Federal statutes politically and racially stigmatized Chinese immigration into the United States, enshrining in law the exclusion of the Chinese from the political process and the promise of American freedom;

Whereas wartime enemy forces used the anti-Chinese legislation passed in Congress as evidence of American racism against the Chinese, attempting to undermine the Chinese-American alliance and allied military efforts;

Whereas, in 1943, at the urging of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and over 60 years after the enactment of the first discriminatory laws against Chinese immigrants, Congress--

- (1) repealed previously enacted anti-Chinese legislation; and
- (2) permitted Chinese immigrants to become naturalized United States citizens;

Whereas despite facing decades of systematic, pervasive, and sustained discrimination, Chinese immigrants and Chinese-Americans persevered and have continued to play a significant role in the growth and success of the United States;

Whereas 6 decades of Federal legislation deliberately targeting Chinese by race--

- (1) restricted the capacity of generations of individuals and families to openly pursue the American dream without fear; and
- (2) fostered an atmosphere of racial discrimination that deeply prejudiced the civil rights of Chinese immigrants;

Whereas diversity is one of our Nation's greatest strengths, and, while this Nation was founded on the principle that all persons are created equal, the laws enacted by Congress in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that restricted the political and civil rights of persons of Chinese descent violated that principle;

Whereas although an acknowledgment of the Senate's actions that contributed to discrimination against persons of Chinese descent will not erase the past, such an expression will acknowledge and illuminate the injustices in our national experience and help to build a better and stronger Nation;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the importance of addressing this unique framework of discriminatory laws in order to educate the public and future generations regarding the impact of these laws on Chinese and other Asian persons and their implications to all Americans;

Whereas in 1988, the Congress of the United States issued apologies to the United States Citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident Japanese aliens for internment

camps by enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 signed by President Ronald Reagan on August 10, 1988;

Whereas in 1993, the Congress of the United States issued apologies to the Native Hawaiians for the overthrow of their monarchy by enactment of Public Law 103-150;

Whereas, in 2008 and 2009, the Congress of the United States issued apologies to the African-Americans for the enslavement and racial segregation of African-Americans by adoption of House Resolution 194 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 26;

Whereas in 2010, the Congress of the United States issued apologies to the Native Peoples for violence, neglect and mistreatment towards Native Peoples by enactment of Public Law 111-118;

Whereas on October 6, 2011, the Senate of the United States passed Senate Resolution 201 expressing the regret of the Senate for the passage of discriminatory laws against the Chinese in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act;

Whereas on June 18, 2012, the House of Representatives of the United States passed House Resolution 683 expressing the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act;

Whereas there are important and major differences between an apology and an expression of regret;

Whereas an apology includes an admission of error or wrongdoing, an admission that the action taken should not have been done, and an admission of responsibility;

Whereas an expression of regret merely indicates a disappointment that the events happened but does not accept any wrongdoing or responsibility for the consequences;

Whereas the government recognizes these important differences in many other situations;

Whereas, the history of Congress indicates that an apology is the appropriate action to be taken in redressing injustices towards a particular ethnic group as a result of government action;

Whereas, based upon the founding principle that all persons are created equal, the Senate should extend its apology to the Chinese-Americans as it has previously given to Americans of other ethnic origins;

Whereas, additionally, the Chinese-Americans have made significant and key contributions to the socio-economic, scientific, medical, technological, cultural and artistic achievement and advancement of the United States during the past 120 years

despite the injustices committed and limitations imposed upon them and therefore, have earned the right to an apology from Congress;

Whereas it is important for the Senate to make a formal and sincere apology to the Chinese people for the enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Act and related discriminatory laws that--

- (1) resulted in the persecution and political alienation of persons of Chinese descent;
- (2) unfairly limited their civil rights;
- (3) legitimized racial discrimination; and
- (4) induced trauma that persists within the Chinese community;

Whereas, a formal apology to the Chinese people is necessary so that the United States can proceed to achieve democracy, justice and equality for all of its citizens;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APOLOGY

The Senate—

- (1) acknowledges that this framework of anti-Chinese legislation, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, is incompatible with the basic founding principles recognized in the Declaration of Independence that all persons are created equal;
- (2) sincerely apologizes for passing 6 decades of legislation directly targeting the Chinese people for physical and political exclusion and the wrongs committed against Chinese and American citizens of Chinese descent who suffered under these discriminatory laws; and
- (3) reaffirms its commitment to preserving the same civil rights and constitutional protections for people of Chinese or other Asian descent in the United States accorded to all others, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

SECTION 2. DISCLAIMER.

Nothing in this resolution may be construed--

- (1) to authorize or support any claim against the United States; or
- (2) to serve as a settlement of any claim against the United States.

Section 2

PROPOSED SENATE APOLOGY RESOLUTION

(additions and changes from S. Res. 201 are in caps and italic type)

APOLOGY of the Senate for the passage of discriminatory laws against the Chinese in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

RESOLUTION

APOLOGY of the Senate for the passage of discriminatory laws against the Chinese in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Whereas many Chinese came to the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, as did people from other countries, in search of the opportunity to create a better life for themselves and their families;

Whereas the contributions of persons of Chinese descent in the agriculture, mining, manufacturing, construction, fishing, and canning industries were critical to establishing the foundations for economic growth in the Nation, particularly in the western United States;

Whereas United States industrialists recruited thousands of Chinese workers to assist in the construction of the Nation's first major national transportation infrastructure, the Transcontinental Railroad;

Whereas Chinese laborers, who made up the majority of the western portion of the railroad workforce, faced grueling hours and extremely harsh conditions in order to lay hundreds of miles of track and were paid substandard wages;

Whereas without the tremendous efforts and technical contributions of these Chinese immigrants, the completion of this vital national infrastructure would have been seriously impeded;

Whereas from the middle of the 19th century through the early 20th century, Chinese immigrants faced racial ostracism and violent assaults, including--

(1) the 1887 Snake River Massacre in Oregon, at which 31 Chinese miners were killed; and

(2) numerous other incidents, including attacks on Chinese immigrants in Rock Springs, San Francisco, Tacoma, and Los Angeles;

Whereas the United States instigated the negotiation of the Burlingame Treaty, ratified by the Senate on October 19, 1868, which permitted the free movement of the Chinese people to, from, and within the United States and accorded to China the status of "most favored nation";

Whereas before consenting to the ratification of the Burlingame Treaty, the Senate required that the Treaty would not permit Chinese immigrants in the United States to be naturalized United States citizens;

Whereas on July 14, 1870, Congress approved An Act to Amend the Naturalization Laws and to Punish Crimes against the Same, and for other Purposes, and during consideration of such Act, the Senate expressly rejected an amendment to allow Chinese immigrants to naturalize;

Whereas Chinese immigrants were subject to the overzealous implementation of the Page Act of 1875 (18 Stat. 477), which--

(1) ostensibly barred the importation of women from ``China, Japan, or any Oriental country “for purposes of prostitution;

(2) was disproportionately enforced against Chinese women, effectively preventing the formation of Chinese families in the United States and limiting the number of native-born Chinese citizens;

Whereas, on February 15, 1879, the Senate passed “the Fifteen Passenger Bill,” which would have limited the number of Chinese passengers permitted on any ship coming to the United States to 15, with proponents of the bill expressing that the Chinese were “an indigestible element in our midst . . . without any adaptability to become citizens”;

Whereas, on March 1, 1879, President Hayes vetoed the Fifteen Passenger Bill as being incompatible with the Burlingame Treaty, which declared that “Chinese subjects visiting or residing in the United States, shall enjoy the same privileges . . . in respect to travel or residence, as may there be enjoyed by the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation”;

Whereas in the aftermath of the veto of the Fifteen Passenger Bill, President Hayes initiated the renegotiation of the Burlingame Treaty, requesting that the Chinese government consent to restrictions on the immigration of Chinese persons to the United States;

Whereas these negotiations culminated in the Angell Treaty, ratified by the Senate on May 9, 1881, which--

(1) allowed the United States to suspend, but not to prohibit, the immigration of Chinese laborers;

(2) declared that “Chinese laborers who are now in the United States shall be allowed to go and come of their own free will”; and

(3) reaffirmed that Chinese persons possessed “all the rights, privileges, immunities, and exemptions which are accorded to the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation”;

Whereas, on March 9, 1882, the Senate passed the first Chinese Exclusion Act, which purported to implement the Angell Treaty but instead excluded for 20 years both skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers, rejected an amendment that would have permitted the naturalization of Chinese persons, and instead expressly denied Chinese persons the right to be naturalized as American citizens;

Whereas, on April 4, 1882, President Chester A. Arthur vetoed the first Chinese Exclusion Act as being incompatible with the terms and spirit of the Angell Treaty;

Whereas, on May 6, 1882, Congress passed the second Chinese Exclusion Act, which--

(1) prohibited skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers from entering the United States

for 10 years;

(2) was the first Federal law that excluded a single group of people on the basis of race; and

(3) required certain Chinese laborers already legally present in the United States who later wished to reenter to obtain “certificates of return”, an unprecedented requirement that applied only to Chinese residents;

Whereas in response to reports that courts were bestowing United States citizenship on persons of Chinese descent, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 explicitly prohibited all State and Federal courts from naturalizing Chinese persons;

Whereas the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 underscored the belief of some Senators at that time that--

(1) the Chinese people were unfit to be naturalized;

(2) the social characteristics of the Chinese were “revolting”;

(3) Chinese immigrants were “like parasites”; and

(4) the United States “is under God a country of Caucasians, a country of white men, a country to be governed by white men”;

Whereas, on July 3, 1884, notwithstanding United States treaty obligations with China and other nations, Congress broadened the scope of the Chinese Exclusion Act--

(1) to apply to all persons of Chinese descent, “whether subjects of China or any other foreign power”; and

(2) to provide more stringent requirements restricting Chinese immigration;

Whereas, on October 1, 1888, the Scott Act was enacted into law, which--

(1) prohibited all Chinese laborers who would choose or had chosen to leave the United States from reentering;

(2) cancelled all previously issued “certificates of return”, which prevented approximately 20,000 Chinese laborers abroad, including 600 individuals who were en route to the United States, from returning to their families or their homes; and

(3) was later determined by the Supreme Court to have abrogated the Angell Treaty;

Whereas, on May 5, 1892, the Geary Act was enacted into law, which--

(1) extended the Chinese Exclusion Act for 10 years;

(2) required all Chinese persons in the United States, but no other race of people, to register with the Federal Government in order to obtain “certificates of residence”; and

(3) denied Chinese immigrants the right to be released on bail upon application for a writ of habeas corpus;

Whereas on an explicitly racial basis, the Geary Act deemed the testimony of Chinese persons, including American citizens of Chinese descent, per se insufficient to establish the residency of a Chinese person subject to deportation, mandating that such

residence be established through the testimony of “at least one credible white witness”;

Whereas in the 1894 Gresham-Yang Treaty, the Chinese government consented to a prohibition of Chinese immigration and the enforcement of the Geary Act in exchange for the readmission of previous Chinese residents;

Whereas in 1898, the United States--

- (1) annexed Hawaii;
- (2) took control of the Philippines; and
- (3) excluded thousands of racially Chinese residents of Hawaii and of the Philippines from entering the United States mainland;

Whereas on April 29, 1902, Congress--

- (1) indefinitely extended all laws regulating and restricting Chinese immigration and residence; and
- (2) expressly applied such laws to United States insular territories, including the Philippines;

Whereas in 1904, after the Chinese government exercised its unilateral right to withdraw from the Gresham-Yang Treaty, Congress permanently extended, “without modification, limitation, or condition”, all restrictions on Chinese immigration and naturalization, making the Chinese the only racial group explicitly singled out for immigration exclusion and permanently ineligible for American citizenship;

Whereas between 1910 and 1940, the Angel Island Immigration Station implemented the Chinese exclusion laws by--

- (1) confining Chinese persons for up to nearly 2 years;
- (2) interrogating Chinese persons; and
- (3) providing a model for similar immigration stations at other locations on the Pacific coast and in Hawaii;

Whereas each of the congressional debates concerning issues of Chinese civil rights, naturalization, and immigration involved intensely racial rhetoric, with many Members of Congress claiming that all persons of Chinese descent were--

- (1) unworthy of American citizenship;
- (2) incapable of assimilation into American society; and
- (3) dangerous to the political and social integrity of the United States;

Whereas the express discrimination in these Federal statutes politically and racially stigmatized Chinese immigration into the United States, enshrining in law the exclusion of the Chinese from the political process and the promise of American freedom;

Whereas wartime enemy forces used the anti-Chinese legislation passed in Congress as evidence of American racism against the Chinese, attempting to undermine the Chinese-American alliance and allied military efforts;

Whereas, in 1943, at the urging of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and over 60 years after the enactment of the first discriminatory laws against Chinese immigrants, Congress--

- (1) repealed previously enacted anti-Chinese legislation; and
- (2) permitted Chinese immigrants to become naturalized United States citizens;

Whereas despite facing decades of systematic, pervasive, and sustained discrimination, Chinese immigrants and Chinese-Americans persevered and have continued to play a significant role in the growth and success of the United States;

Whereas 6 decades of Federal legislation deliberately targeting Chinese by race--

- (1) restricted the capacity of generations of individuals and families to openly pursue the American dream without fear; and
- (2) fostered an atmosphere of racial discrimination that deeply prejudiced the civil rights of Chinese immigrants;

Whereas diversity is one of our Nation's greatest strengths, and, while this Nation was founded on the principle that all persons are created equal, the laws enacted by Congress in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that restricted the political and civil rights of persons of Chinese descent violated that principle;

Whereas although an acknowledgment of the Senate's actions that contributed to discrimination against persons of Chinese descent will not erase the past, such an expression will acknowledge and illuminate the injustices in our national experience and help to build a better and stronger Nation;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the importance of addressing this unique framework of discriminatory laws in order to educate the public and future generations regarding the impact of these laws on Chinese and other Asian persons and their implications to all Americans;

WHEREAS IN 1988, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ISSUED APOLOGIES TO THE JAPANESE FOR INTERNMENT CAMPS BY ENACTMENT OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT OF 1988 SIGNED BY PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN ON AUGUST 10, 1988;

WHEREAS IN 1993, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ISSUED APOLOGIES TO THE HAWAIIANS FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THEIR MONARCHY BY ENACTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW 103-150;

WHEREAS, IN 2008 AND 2009, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ISSUED APOLOGIES TO THE AFRICAN-AMERICANS FOR THE ENSLAVEMENT AND RACIAL SEGREGATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS BY ADOPTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 194 AND SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26;

WHEREAS IN 2010, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ISSUED APOLOGIES TO THE NATIVE AMERICANS FOR VIOLENCE, NEGLECT AND MISTREATMENT BY ENACTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW 111-118;

WHEREAS ON OCTOBER 6, 2011, THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES PASSED SENATE RESOLUTION 201 EXPRESSING THE REGRET OF THE SENATE FOR THE PASSAGE OF DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AGAINST THE CHINESE IN AMERICA, INCLUDING THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT;

WHEREAS ON JUNE 18, 2012, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES PASSED HOUSE RESOLUTION 683 EXPRESSING THE REGRET OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PASSAGE OF LAWS THAT ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE CHINESE IN THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT;

WHEREAS THERE ARE IMPORTANT AND MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AN APOLOGY AND AN EXPRESSION OF REGRET;

WHEREAS AN APOLOGY INCLUDES AN ADMISSION OF ERROR OR WRONGDOING, AN ADMISSION THAT THE ACTION TAKEN SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DONE, AND AN ADMISSION OF RESPONSIBILITY;

WHEREAS AN EXPRESSION OF REGRET MERELY INDICATES A DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE EVENTS HAPPENED BUT DOES NOT ACCEPT ANY WRONGDOING OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES;

WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THESE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES IN MANY OTHER SITUATIONS;

WHEREAS, THE HISTORY OF CONGRESS INDICATES THAT AN APOLOGY IS THE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN REDRESSING INJUSTICES TOWARDS A PARTICULAR ETHNIC GROUP AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT ACTION;

WHEREAS, BASED UPON THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLE THAT ALL PERSONS ARE CREATED EQUAL, THE SENATE SHOULD EXTEND ITS APOLOGY TO THE CHINESE-AMERICANS AS IT HAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN TO AMERICANS OF OTHER ETHNIC ORIGINS;

WHEREAS, ADDITIONALLY, THE CHINESE-AMERICANS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT AND KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE PAST 120 YEARS DESPITE THE INJUSTICES COMMITTED AND LIMITATIONS IMPOSED UPON THEM AND THEREFORE, HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO AN APOLOGY FROM CONGRESS;

Whereas *IT IS IMPORTANT FOR* the Senate *TO MAKE A FORMAL AND SINCERE APOLOGY TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE FOR* the enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Act and related discriminatory laws that--

- (1) resulted in the persecution and political alienation of persons of Chinese descent;
- (2) unfairly limited their civil rights;
- (3) legitimized racial discrimination; and
- (4) induced trauma that persists within the Chinese community;

WHEREAS, A FORMAL APOLOGY TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE IS NECESSARY SO THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN PROCEED TO ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY FOR ALL OF ITS CITIZENS;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APOLOGY

The Senate—

(1) acknowledges that this framework of anti-Chinese legislation, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, is incompatible with the basic founding principles recognized in the Declaration of Independence that all persons are created equal;

(2) *SINCERELY APOLOGIZES FOR* passing 6 decades of legislation directly targeting the Chinese people for physical and political exclusion and the wrongs committed against Chinese and American citizens of Chinese descent who suffered under these discriminatory laws; and

(3) reaffirms its commitment to preserving the same civil rights and constitutional protections for people of Chinese or other Asian descent in the United States accorded to all others, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

SECTION 2. DISCLAIMER.

Nothing in this resolution may be construed--

(1) to authorize or support any claim against the United States; or

(2) to serve as a settlement of any claim against the United States.

Section 3

PROPOSED HOUSE APOLOGY RESOLUTION

Apology of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion.

Whereas many Chinese came to the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, as did people from other countries, in search of the opportunity to create a better life;

Whereas the United States ratified the Burlingame Treaty on October 19, 1868, which permitted the free movement of the Chinese people to, from, and within the United States and made China a 'most favored nation';

Whereas in 1878, the House of Representatives passed a resolution requesting that President Rutherford B. Hayes renegotiate the Burlingame Treaty so Congress could limit Chinese immigration to the United States;

Whereas, on February 22, 1879, the House of Representatives passed the Fifteen Passenger Bill, which only permitted 15 Chinese passengers on any ship coming to the United States;

Whereas, on March 1, 1879, President Hayes vetoed the Fifteen Passenger Bill as being incompatible with the Burlingame Treaty;

Whereas, on May 9, 1881, the United States ratified the Angell Treaty, which allowed the United States to suspend, but not prohibit, immigration of Chinese laborers, declared that 'Chinese laborers who are now in the United States shall be allowed to go and come of their own free will,' and reaffirmed that Chinese persons possessed 'all the rights, privileges, immunities, and exemptions which are accorded to the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation';

Whereas the House of Representatives passed legislation that adversely affected Chinese persons in the United States and limited their civil rights, including--

(1) on March 23, 1882, the first Chinese Exclusion bill, which excluded for 20 years skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers and expressly denied Chinese persons alone the right to be naturalized as American citizens, and which was opposed by President Chester A. Arthur as incompatible with the terms and spirit of the Angell Treaty;

(2) on April 17, 1882, intending to address President Arthur's concerns, the House passed a new Chinese Exclusion bill, which prohibited Chinese workers from entering the United States for 10 years instead of 20, required certain Chinese laborers already legally present in the United States who later wished to reenter the United States to obtain 'certificates of return,' and prohibited courts from naturalizing Chinese individuals;

(3) on May 3, 1884, an expansion of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which applied it to all persons of Chinese descent, 'whether subjects of China or any other foreign power';

(4) on September 3, 1888, the Scott Act, which prohibited legal Chinese laborers from reentering the United States and cancelled all previously issued 'certificates of return,' and which was later determined by the Supreme Court to have abrogated the Angell Treaty; and

(5) on April 4, 1892, the Geary Act, which reauthorized the Chinese Exclusion Act for another ten years, denied Chinese immigrants the right to be released on bail upon application for a writ of habeas corpus, and contrary to customary legal standards regarding the presumption of innocence, authorized the deportation of Chinese persons

who could not produce a certificate of residence unless they could establish residence through the testimony of 'at least one credible white witness';

Whereas in the 1894 Gresham-Yang Treaty, the Chinese government consented to a prohibition of Chinese immigration and the enforcement of the Geary Act in exchange for readmission to the United States of Chinese persons who were United States residents;

Whereas in 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii, took control of the Philippines, and excluded only the residents of Chinese ancestry of these territories from entering the United States mainland;

Whereas, on April 29, 1902, as the Geary Act was expiring, Congress indefinitely extended all laws regulating and restricting Chinese immigration and residence, to the extent consistent with Treaty commitments;

Whereas in 1904, after the Chinese government withdrew from the Gresham-Yang Treaty, Congress permanently extended, 'without modification, limitation, or condition,' the prohibition on Chinese naturalization and immigration;

Whereas these Federal statutes enshrined in law the exclusion of the Chinese from the democratic process and the promise of American freedom;

Whereas in an attempt to undermine the American-Chinese alliance during World War II, enemy forces used the Chinese exclusion legislation passed in Congress as evidence of anti-Chinese attitudes in the United States;

Whereas in 1943, in furtherance of American war objectives, at the urging of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Congress repealed previously enacted legislation and permitted Chinese persons to become United States citizens;

Whereas in 1988, the Congress of the United States issued apologies to the Japanese for internment camps in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 signed by President Ronald Reagan on August 10, 1988;

Whereas in 1993, the Congress of the United States issued apologies to the Hawaiians for the overthrow of their monarchy;

Whereas, in 2009, the Congress of the United States issued apologies to the African-Americans for the enslavement and racial segregation of African-Americans;

Whereas in 2010, the Congress of the United States issued apologies to the Native Americans for violence, neglect and mistreatment;

Whereas on October 6, 2011, the Senate of the United States passed S. Res. 201 expressing the regret of the Senate for the passage of discriminatory laws against the Chinese in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act;

Whereas on June 18, 2012, the House of Representatives of the United States passed H. Res. 683 expressing the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act;

Whereas there are important and major differences between an apology and an expression of regret;

Whereas an apology includes an admission of error or wrongdoing, an admission that the action taken should not have been done, and an admission of responsibility;

Whereas an expression of regret merely indicates a disappointment that the events happened but does not accept any wrongdoing or responsibility for the consequences;

Whereas the government recognizes these important differences in many other situations;

Whereas, the history of Congress indicates that an apology is the appropriate action to be taken in redressing injustices towards a particular ethnic group as a result of government action;

Whereas, the United States was founded on the principle that all persons are created equal;

Whereas, based upon the founding principle that all persons are created equal, the House of Representatives should extend its apology to the Chinese-Americans as it has previously given to Americans of other ethnic origins;

Whereas, additionally, the Chinese-Americans have made significant and key contributions to the socio-economic, scientific, medical, technological, cultural and artistic achievement and advancement of the United States during the past 120 years despite the injustices committed and limitations imposed upon them and therefore, have earned the right to an apology from Congress;

Whereas Chinese-Americans continue to play a significant role in the success of the United States;

Whereas, it is important for the House of Representatives to make a formal and sincere apology to the Chinese people for the enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Act and related discriminatory laws that adversely affected the Chinese so that the country can proceed to achieve democracy, justice and equality for all of its citizens;

Now therefore be it resolved

SECTION 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

That the House of Representatives acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty and inhumanity of the Chinese Exclusion Act and related discriminatory laws enacted against the Chinese.

SECTION 2. APOLOGY.

That the House of Representatives sincerely apologizes to the Chinese people for the passage of legislation that adversely affected the people of Chinese origin in the United States because of their ethnicity.

SECTION 3. DISCLAIMER

Nothing in this resolution may be construed or relied on to authorize or support any claim, including but not limited to constitutionally based claims, claims for monetary compensation or claims for equitable relief against the United States or any other party, or serve as a settlement of any claim against the United States.

Section 4

PROPOSED HOUSE APOLOGY RESOLUTION

(additions and changes from H. Res. 683 are in caps and italic type)

APOLOGY of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Whereas many Chinese came to the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, as did people from other countries, in search of the opportunity to create a better life; Whereas the United States ratified the Burlingame Treaty on October 19, 1868, which permitted the free movement of the Chinese people to, from, and within the United States and made China a ‘most favored nation’;

Whereas in 1878, the House of Representatives passed a resolution requesting that President Rutherford B. Hayes renegotiate the Burlingame Treaty so Congress could limit Chinese immigration to the United States;

Whereas, on February 22, 1879, the House of Representatives passed the Fifteen Passenger Bill, which only permitted 15 Chinese passengers on any ship coming to the United States;

Whereas, on March 1, 1879, President Hayes vetoed the Fifteen Passenger Bill as being incompatible with the Burlingame Treaty;

Whereas, on May 9, 1881, the United States ratified the Angell Treaty, which allowed the United States to suspend, but not prohibit, immigration of Chinese laborers, declared that ‘Chinese laborers who are now in the United States shall be allowed to go and come of their own free will,’ and reaffirmed that Chinese persons possessed ‘all the rights, privileges, immunities, and exemptions which are accorded to the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation’;

Whereas the House of Representatives passed legislation that adversely affected Chinese persons in the United States and limited their civil rights, including--

(1) on March 23, 1882, the first Chinese Exclusion bill, which excluded for 20 years skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers and expressly denied Chinese persons alone the right to be naturalized as American citizens, and which was opposed by President Chester A. Arthur as incompatible with the terms and spirit of the Angell Treaty;

(2) on April 17, 1882, intending to address President Arthur’s concerns, the House passed a new Chinese Exclusion bill, which prohibited Chinese workers from entering the United States for 10 years instead of 20, required certain Chinese laborers already legally present in the United States who later wished to reenter the United States to obtain ‘certificates of return,’ and prohibited courts from naturalizing Chinese individuals;

(3) on May 3, 1884, an expansion of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which applied it to all

persons of Chinese descent, 'whether subjects of China or any other foreign power';
(4) on September 3, 1888, the Scott Act, which prohibited legal Chinese laborers from reentering the United States and cancelled all previously issued 'certificates of return,' and which was later determined by the Supreme Court to have abrogated the Angell Treaty; and

(5) on April 4, 1892, the Geary Act, which reauthorized the Chinese Exclusion Act for another ten years, denied Chinese immigrants the right to be released on bail upon application for a writ of habeas corpus, and contrary to customary legal standards regarding the presumption of innocence, authorized the deportation of Chinese persons who could not produce a certificate of residence unless they could establish residence through the testimony of 'at least one credible white witness';

Whereas in the 1894 Gresham-Yang Treaty, the Chinese government consented to a prohibition of Chinese immigration and the enforcement of the Geary Act in exchange for readmission to the United States of Chinese persons who were United States residents;

Whereas in 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii, took control of the Philippines, and excluded only the residents of Chinese ancestry of these territories from entering the United States mainland;

Whereas, on April 29, 1902, as the Geary Act was expiring, Congress indefinitely extended all laws regulating and restricting Chinese immigration and residence, to the extent consistent with Treaty commitments;

Whereas in 1904, after the Chinese government withdrew from the Gresham-Yang Treaty, Congress permanently extended, 'without modification, limitation, or condition,' the prohibition on Chinese naturalization and immigration;

Whereas these Federal statutes enshrined in law the exclusion of the Chinese from the democratic process and the promise of American freedom;

Whereas in an attempt to undermine the American-Chinese alliance during World War II, enemy forces used the Chinese exclusion legislation passed in Congress as evidence of anti-Chinese attitudes in the United States;

Whereas in 1943, in furtherance of American war objectives, at the urging of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Congress repealed previously enacted legislation and permitted Chinese persons to become United States citizens;

WHEREAS IN 1988, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ISSUED APOLOGIES TO THE JAPANESE FOR INTERNMENT CAMPS BY ENACTMENT OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT OF 1988 SIGNED BY PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN ON AUGUST 10, 1988;

WHEREAS IN 1993, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ISSUED APOLOGIES TO THE HAWAIIANS FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THEIR MONARCHY BY ENACTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW 103-150;

WHEREAS, IN 2008 AND 2009, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ISSUED APOLOGIES TO THE AFRICAN-AMERICANS FOR THE ENSLAVEMENT AND RACIAL SEGREGATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS BY ADOPTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 194 AND SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26;

WHEREAS IN 2010, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ISSUED APOLOGIES TO THE NATIVE AMERICANS FOR VIOLENCE, NEGLECT AND MISTREATMENT BY ENACTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW 111-118;

WHEREAS ON OCTOBER 6, 2011, THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES PASSED SENATE RESOLUTION 201 EXPRESSING THE REGRET OF THE SENATE FOR THE PASSAGE OF DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AGAINST THE CHINESE IN AMERICA, INCLUDING THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT;

WHEREAS ON JUNE 18, 2012, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES PASSED HOUSE RESOLUTION 683 EXPRESSING THE REGRET OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PASSAGE OF LAWS THAT ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE CHINESE IN THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT;

WHEREAS THERE ARE IMPORTANT AND MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AN APOLOGY AND AN EXPRESSION OF REGRET;

WHEREAS AN APOLOGY INCLUDES AN ADMISSION OF ERROR OR WRONGDOING, AN ADMISSION THAT THE ACTION TAKEN SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DONE, AND AN ADMISSION OF RESPONSIBILITY;

WHEREAS AN EXPRESSION OF REGRET MERELY INDICATES A DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE EVENTS HAPPENED BUT DOES NOT ACCEPT ANY WRONGDOING OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES;

WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THESE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES IN MANY OTHER SITUATIONS;

WHEREAS, THE HISTORY OF CONGRESS INDICATES THAT AN APOLOGY IS THE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN REDRESSING INJUSTICES SUFFERED BY A PARTICULAR ETHNIC GROUP AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT ACTION;

Whereas, the United States was founded on the principle that all persons are created equal;

WHEREAS, BASED UPON THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLE THAT ALL PERSONS ARE CREATED EQUAL, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD EXTEND ITS APOLOGY TO THE CHINESE-AMERICANS AS IT HAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN TO AMERICANS OF OTHER ETHNIC ORIGINS;

WHEREAS, ADDITIONALLY, THE CHINESE-AMERICANS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT AND KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE

PAST 120 YEARS DESPITE THE INJUSTICES COMMITTED AND LIMITATIONS IMPOSED UPON THEM AND THEREFORE, HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO AN APOLOGY FROM CONGRESS;

Whereas Chinese-Americans continue to play a significant role in the success of the United States;

WHEREAS, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A FORMAL AND SINCERE APOLOGY TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT AND RELATED DISCRIMINATORY LAWS THAT ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE CHINESE SO THAT THE COUNTRY CAN PROCEED TO ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY FOR ALL OF ITS CITIZENS;

Now therefore be it resolved

SECTION 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

That the House of Representatives *ACKNOWLEDGES THE FUNDAMENTAL INJUSTICE, CRUELTY AND INHUMANITY OF THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT AND RELATED DISCRIMINATORY LAWS ENACTED AGAINST THE CHINESE.*

SECTION 2. APOLOGY.

That the House of Representatives *SINCERELY APOLOGIZES TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE FOR* the passage of legislation that adversely affected the people of Chinese origin in the United States because of their ethnicity.

SECTION 3. DISCLAIMER

Nothing in this resolution may be construed or relied on to authorize or support any claim, including but not limited to constitutionally based claims, claims for monetary compensation or claims for equitable relief against the United States or any other party, or serve as a settlement of any claim against the United States.

Assigned: CIVIC

Action: <For Grand Council>

Date: <For Grand Council>