SENATE RESOLUTION

8625

By Senators Das, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Lovelett, Nobles, Saldaña, Salomon, Stanford, and Wilson, C.

1   WHEREAS, The tradition of holding space for the Sikh community
2 has been expanded to include the diverse Indian community, within our
3 state, and around the globe. We recognize the contributions, impacts,
4 and lived experiences of not only Sikh community members, but also
5 Indians and Indian Americans. The farmer's protest has shown the
6 resiliency of, and dedication to, preserving culture, community, and
7 intergenerational well-being; and
8   WHEREAS, The Washington State Senate acknowledge and respect the
9 contributions of farmers, in India and across the world, in feeding
10 nations and fostering trade; and
11   WHEREAS, The Washington State Senate acknowledge that it is home
12 to individuals who have family members that are farmers in their
13 ancestral countries; and
14   WHEREAS, Washington state has many cultural and economic ties to
15 India, including more than 60,000 Indian Americans living in the
16 state; and
17   WHEREAS, We acknowledge the protests taking place against these
18 bills in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal,
19 Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar, Rajasthan, and many other
20 states which have resulted in over 1,000,000 farmers protesting
21 outside the capital city of New Delhi since November 2020; and
22   WHEREAS, We acknowledge the death of over 200 protestors due to
23 the harsh conditions under which they protest, yet they remain

1 resolute in peaceful demonstrations to repeal the laws pertaining to
2 agricultural reform; and
3   WHEREAS, We acknowledge that democracy hinges on the unalienable
4 rights of citizens to dissent, demonstrate peacefully, and exercise
5 an unimpeded right to freedom of speech and expression;
6   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
7 support the rights of Indian farmers and farm laborers to peacefully
8 seek redress from their government and honor the nonviolent protest
9 of Indian farmers and farm laborers.

--- **END** ---