



## 2013 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 36

May 14, 2013 - Introduced by Representatives SINICKI and RICHARDS, cosponsored by Senator C. LARSON. Referred to Committee on Rules.

\*\*\*AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\*

1     **Relating to:** commemorating the Bay View labor strike and massacre.

2             Whereas, Wisconsin workers and reformers made important contributions to  
3     the history of labor in the United States, helping to enact legislation such as worker's  
4     compensation and unemployment insurance, models that, in turn, were adopted by  
5     other states; and

6             Whereas, in the 1880s workers in Milwaukee began to advocate for the  
7     eight-hour workday, which we now take for granted; and

8             Whereas, until that time workers generally labored at physically punishing  
9     jobs for many hours each day; and

10            Whereas, on May 1, 1886, a national campaign to require that all employers  
11     adopt a standard eight-hour day culminated when workers' unions urged all  
12     American workers to cease labor until their employers met the demand; and

13            Whereas, in Milwaukee, civil parades and demonstrations followed as striking  
14     workers shut down factories peaceably and without violence during the first five  
15     days of May 1886; and

1           Whereas, the morning of May 2nd revealed the turmoil among Milwaukee's  
2 laborers, as more than a dozen strikes had begun in the city, involving the carpenters,  
3 coal heavers, sewer diggers, iron moulders, teamsters, common laborers, and other  
4 workers striking for better pay; and

5           Whereas, during this period, the good citizens of Milwaukee began to receive  
6 word of the bloody conflict in Chicago's Haymarket Square, where police had killed  
7 demonstrators; and

8           Whereas, news of the bloodshed at Haymarket Square elevated tensions among  
9 the citizenry of Milwaukee and many of Milwaukee's workers and businessmen  
10 began to prepare for armed confrontation; and

11           Whereas, the last grand factory to remain open was the North Chicago Railroad  
12 Rolling Mills Steel Foundry, in Bay View; and

13           Whereas on May 5th, a crowd of demonstrators went to the rolling mill to enjoin  
14 the workers to participate in the general strike; and

15           Whereas, the assemblage of striking workers was fired upon by National Guard  
16 forces, under the order of Governor Jeremiah Rusk, killing seven people and  
17 wounding four; and

18           Whereas, the events of that day will remain in the historic and cultural legacy  
19 of Wisconsin forever, serving as a reminder of the sacrifices our forebears made so  
20 that we might lead happier, more prosperous lives; now, therefore, be it

21           ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin  
22 legislature commemorates this pivotal series of events and recognizes May 2nd as  
23 the anniversary of the Bay View labor strike and tragedy.

24

(END)