

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 29

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8—Relative to Alberta, Canada.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 28, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 8, M. Thompson. Alberta, Canada: sister state status.

This measure would extend an invitation to the people of Alberta, Canada to join California as a sister state, in order to encourage and facilitate mutually beneficial educational, economic, ecological, recreational, and cultural exchanges, and to lead to an indelible and lasting relationship between the citizens of California and Alberta.

WHEREAS, At least 3.5 million ducks of the Pacific Flyway nest in the wetlands and marshes of Alberta, Canada during the summer season, and migrate to the wetlands of the central valley of California during the winter; and

WHEREAS, In the past 20 years, the State of California has contributed \$4.5 million from the California Duck Stamp Bill to Ducks Unlimited for critical habitat enhancement work for waterfowl in Canada, most of it in Alberta, which has protected 230,000 acres of nesting habitat; and

WHEREAS, Mixed grass prairies of southern Alberta support a wide range of bird and raptor species, including bald eagles, which have been proven to migrate between California and Alberta; and

WHEREAS, At approximately 31.4 million, the population of California exceeds both the population of Alberta, at 2.8 million, and the total population of Canada, at 29.9 million; and

WHEREAS, With only 9 percent of the population of Canada, Alberta has one of the most productive and balanced agricultural economies in the world, with more than 51 million acres being used for crop and livestock production, producing the largest cattle and sheep populations in Canada, accounting for about 22 percent of the total primary agricultural production of Canada, and generating international export sales of \$4.2 billion in 1995; and

WHEREAS, California is the principal agricultural state in the United States, and has the most diversified agricultural economy in the world, producing more than 250 crop and livestock commodities generating \$11.2 billion in export sales in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Alberta enjoys an abundance of low-sulfur coal and natural gas, generating some of the lowest electricity and natural gas rates in North America, most of which is exported to the United States, including California; and

WHEREAS, Both California and Alberta have an extensive network of community colleges, universities, and technical institutes, with a heavy emphasis on research; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, Alberta's forest product industry generated \$4.2 billion in total sales, of which \$2.6 billion was exported to the United States, and California's forestry industry generated \$12 billion in the same year; and

WHEREAS, The North American Free Trade Agreement gives both California and Alberta enhanced access to each other's markets, necessitating a seamless north-to-south transportation corridor between Alberta and California; and

WHEREAS, Alberta is presently working to obtain an agreement known as the CANAMEX trade and transportation corridor with California, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Utah, towards greater efficiency in the movement of commercial goods along the north-south trade corridor, working toward achieving compatible motor transportation standards including harmonized truck weights and dimensions, a single permit system, and cooperation on transportation; and

WHEREAS, A sister state relationship would promote mutual trade and commerce, and increase the potential for greater coordination on all issues of common concern to California and Alberta; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California, on behalf of the people of California, extends to the people of the Province of Alberta, Canada an invitation to join with California in a sister state relationship in order to encourage and facilitate mutually beneficial educational, economic, ecological, recreational, and cultural exchanges and to lead to an indelible and lasting relationship between the citizens of California and Alberta; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Premier of Alberta, and Members of the Legislative Assembly, to the Alberta Members of the Parliament of Canada, to the Governor of California, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

