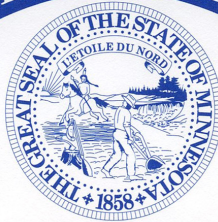


MINNESOTA  
LEGISLATURE



A Senate resolution

encouraging the government of Turkey to respect and safeguard the religious and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church.

**WHEREAS**, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church, led by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, is the 269th in direct succession to the Apostle Andrew; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for almost 2,000 years, has about 300 million members worldwide, with more than two million members in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, this religious coexistence is in jeopardy because the Ecumenical Patriarchate is being persecuted by various factions within the Turkish government; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the senate recognize that the Turkish government has continued to negotiate and publicly address these and other related concerns and are committed to resolving them in a manner acceptable to all interested parties; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota has a significant population of Greek Orthodox parishioners, with citizens in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Rochester; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it encourages the government of Turkey to uphold and safeguard religious and human rights without compromise; to grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate appropriate international recognition, ecclesiastic succession, and the right to train clergy of all nationalities; and to respect the property rights and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

*Cal R. Ludeman*

Cal R. Ludeman  
Secretary of the Senate

*Paul E. Gazelka*

Paul E. Gazelka  
Chair, Senate Committee on  
Rules and Administration

*Jim Abeler*

Jim Abeler  
State Senator, District 35

