

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6054

A RESOLUTION recognizing the importance of the strategic partnership between the United States of America and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

WHEREAS, The Republic of Kazakhstan declared its sovereign independence from the Soviet Union on December 25, 1991, and has enjoyed a growing democratic tradition over the last 22 years; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America was the first country to recognize the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1991 and established full-fledged diplomatic relations with it; and

WHEREAS, Over the last 22 years, the Republic of Kazakhstan has consolidated its sovereignty and independence and has become a leader in the Central Asia region; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America, along with the United Nations, recognizes and supports the Republic of Kazakhstan's sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America and the Republic of Kazakhstan have developed a strong strategic partnership based on shared values and interests and a shared vision; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Kazakhstan is a staunch ally and strategic partner of the United States of America in the critically important Central Asia region; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Kazakhstan is a leader in the area of nuclear non-proliferation, having voluntarily given up its nuclear arsenal upon independence, and today works with international partners to promote the reduction of nuclear weapons stockpiles world-wide; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America and the Republic of Kazakhstan continue their successful cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which is of particular importance, given that the Republic of Kazakhstan is an ally nation located in a geopolitically important region; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Kazakhstan possesses vast oil and gas resources and contributes to the energy security of the United States of America and the European nations, and it is a critical element in diversification of energy supplies used by European allies of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Kazakhstan has also been a strong partner of the United States and NATO missions in Afghanistan, opening supply lines through the Northern Distribution Network when southern supply routes were cut off; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Kazakhstan is also committed to supporting democracy in Afghanistan, and has established a \$50 million scholarship program to provide educational opportunities for Afghan students in Kazakhstan; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Kazakhstan is committed to working toward completing accession to the World Trade Organization and appreciates the United States' support in this endeavor; and

WHEREAS, The United States is an important trading partner with the Republic of Kazakhstan and the two countries both support increasing and deepening trade relations with each other; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Kazakhstan has a long-standing tradition of peaceful coexistence with various ethnic and religious communities; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Kazakhstan attaches great importance to expanding its relations in all spheres, including trade, cultural and educational exchanges with the state of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, It is critical for the United States of America to further strengthen relations with its allies, such as the Republic of Kazakhstan, to advance common interests currently and in the future: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we recognize the importance of a strategic partnership and friendship between the United States of America and the Republic of Kazakhstan and work to further enhance the partnership through mutual efforts over the years to come.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.