

A Senate resolution

recognizing the contributions of His Eminence Samdhong Rinpoche to the preservation of Tibetan culture, language, and compassionate beliefs.

**WHEREAS**, the state of Minnesota welcomed its first Tibetan citizen in 1973, and since then the Tibetan population has grown into a strong community maintaining its unbreakable connection with their honored culture and homeland of Tibet, while offering their compassionate and hardworking attitude to our great state and country; and

**WHEREAS**, His Eminence Professor Samdhong Rinpoche was born in Jol in the Kham Province of Tibet in 1939; at the age of five, Professor Samdhong Rinpoche was recognized as the reincarnation of the fourth Samdhong Rinpoche; and in March 1959, following the footsteps of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Professor Samdhong Rinpoche took asylum in India; and

**WHEREAS**, Professor Samdhong Rinpoche has led a life of an ordained celibate Buddhist monk; was formally educated in Tibetan language and Buddhist philosophy; received Geshe Lharampa, the highest Geshe degree of scholarship requiring more than 15 years of intensive study; as well as Geshe Ngagrampa, the highest Buddhist tantric degree; and is fluent in Hindi, Sanskrit, and English; and

**WHEREAS**, having dedicated his life to following the advice of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Professor Samdhong Rinpoche has worked tirelessly to preserve and promote the thousand-year-old rich Tibetan heritage, in particular that of Tibetan language and Buddhist philosophy, with an unwavering faith in nonviolence, democracy, truth, transparency, and morality; and

**WHEREAS**, Professor Samdhong Rinpoche has made contributions to the Tibetan diaspora extending from 1960 to today that left an indelible mark in every sphere including education, culture, religion, administration, social life, and politics, with such achievements as having transformed the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, in Sarnath, Varanasi, India, to the world-renowned accredited Central University of Tibetan Studies; drafted the Central Tibetan Administration education policy; was elected Chair of the Assembly of People's Deputies and was the first elected Kalon Tripa (Prime Minister); and was instrumental in drafting the constitution of the Central Tibetan Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, Professor Samdhong Rinpoche has contributed to Indian society, Asian societies, western societies, universities, and institutions in capacities such as chancellor, board chair, president, adviser, and visiting professor; has authored numerous books on wide-ranging subjects; regularly presents complex Buddhist teachings; and has visited the beautiful state of Minnesota on three occasions; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it congratulates and honors His Eminence Professor Samdhong Rinpoche on his 80th birthday and on this auspicious occasion when the Minnesota Tibetan community is gathered to celebrate the conferment of the 1989 Nobel Peace Award to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

**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, and transmit it to His Eminence Professor Samdhong Rinpoche.

Cal R. Ludeman  
Secretary of the Senate

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

Carolyn Laine  
State Senator, District 41

Eric R. Pratt  
State Senator, District 55