

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2015-4634, by Representatives Cody, Johnson, Walsh, and Nealey

1 WHEREAS, The city of Waitsburg is celebrating its 150th
2 anniversary this year; and

3 WHEREAS, Explorers Lewis and Clark passed through the area in
4 1806; and

5 WHEREAS, The city's founding father, Sylvester Wait, built a
6 gristmill in 1865; and

7 WHEREAS, The original name of the little village which grew up
8 around Wait's Mill was Delta, until it was decided by popular vote to
9 rename the post office to Waitsburg in 1868; and

10 WHEREAS, By 1869, Waitsburg was a firmly established little town
11 with a population of 109, some 35 dwellings, a school, the mill, and
12 businesses and houses lining Main Street; and

13 WHEREAS, The community blossomed due to being on the Walla Walla
14 to Lewiston stage coach route; and

15 WHEREAS, A horrible fire broke out in September of 1880 and
16 destroyed 37 buildings—nearly all of Waitsburg's business structures
17 —but the town rebuilt using fireproof brick masonry from local
18 brickyards, of which about a half dozen of the rebuilt commercial
19 buildings still stand today; and

20 WHEREAS, Washington's territorial legislature issued a regular
21 charter to the city of Waitsburg on November 25, 1881, incorporating
22 the city with the usual powers for the creation of a police force,
23 fire department, and water works; and

1 WHEREAS, Waitsburg remains the last city in the state of
2 Washington to operate under a territorial charter, as revised in
3 1886; and

4 WHEREAS, The Waitsburg mill became the oldest continuously-
5 operated mill in the state of Washington, closing its doors in 1957
6 after 92 years of operation; and

7 WHEREAS, Today, Waitsburg's population is 1,215; and

8 WHEREAS, Waitsburg is in a particularly scenic portion of the
9 state, located in the Touchet River Valley, fronted by rolling hills
10 of wheat and barley, bordering the beautiful Blue Mountains to the
11 southeast, and joined between Coppei Creek and the trout abundant
12 Touchet River; and

13 WHEREAS, Within the city of Waitsburg itself, there are colorful
14 flower gardens, shaded avenues of trees, beautiful white mansions,
15 and a business district that straddles old and modern times; and

16 WHEREAS, Waitsburg is a destination town for tourists who wish to
17 enjoy wine tasting, fine restaurants, and local gift shops, while
18 local farmers and old-timers still gather inside the hardware store
19 to talk about wheat prices while sipping coffee; and

20 WHEREAS, Waitsburg is a true historical American city, built from
21 the profits of wheat, but sustained by its friendly small-town
22 atmosphere;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
24 of Representatives celebrate the city of Waitsburg's 150th
25 anniversary and encourage all to join in the Waitsburg Celebration
26 Days, May 15, 2015, through May 17, 2015.

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