

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8661

By Senators Roach, Parlette, Mullet, Baumgartner, Frockt, Benton, Chase, Ericksen, Pedersen, Angel, Habib, Litzow, Ranker, Honeyford, Hargrove, Hill, Hasegawa, Becker, Conway, O'Ban, Kohl-Welles, Darneille, Billig, Jayapal, and Fraser

1       WHEREAS, The citizens of Washington state value economic and  
2 cultural exchange; and  
3       WHEREAS, The people of Azerbaijan observe Azerbaijan Republic Day  
4 on May 28th; and  
5       WHEREAS, On this same day in 1918, the people of Azerbaijan  
6 declared independence and formed the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic;  
7 and  
8       WHEREAS, The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was the first secular  
9 democracy in the Islamic world and its citizens have committed to  
10 protecting their freedom and democracy; and  
11       WHEREAS, The Republic of Azerbaijan is today a staunch ally and  
12 partner of the United States in the strategically important South  
13 Caucasus region bordering Iran, Russia, and Central Asia; and  
14       WHEREAS, The Republic of Azerbaijan and the United States share a  
15 strong commitment to diversifying energy supplies, fighting  
16 terrorism, and promoting regional security; and  
17       WHEREAS, Possessing vast oil and gas resources, Azerbaijan  
18 contributes to the energy security of the United States and its  
19 European allies, and is a critical element of the "Southern  
20 Corridor," which will further enhance diversification of energy  
21 supplies to our European allies; and  
22       WHEREAS, The Republic of Azerbaijan has consolidated its  
23 sovereignty and independence, and has become one of the most rapidly  
24 developing countries in the world and the biggest United States trade  
25 partner in the South Caucasus; and  
26       WHEREAS, Azerbaijan has become a major regional partner of such  
27 Washington-based companies as Boeing and Microsoft, and has signed  
28 multibillion dollar contracts that have created thousands of new  
29 American jobs in Washington; and  
30       WHEREAS, Azerbaijan, represented by its consulate general,  
31 attaches great importance to expanding its relations in all spheres,  
32 including trade, cultural, and educational exchange with the State of  
33 Washington; and

1       WHEREAS, It is critical for the United States of America to  
2 further strengthen relations with its allies, such as  
3 Azerbaijan, to advance our common interests, presently and in  
4 the future;

5       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
6 Senate recognize and support the strategic partnership and  
7 friendship between the United States of America and the Republic  
8 of Azerbaijan, and trust that our relations will be further  
9 enhanced through mutual efforts over the years to come.

10 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,  
11 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
12 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8661,  
13 adopted by the Senate  
14 April 9, 2015

15 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
16 Secretary of the Senate