SENATE RESOLUTION

8679

By Senator Dhingra

WHEREAS, The Washington State Senate recognize the invaluable contributions of Sikh Americans to the cultural, economic, and social fabric of our state; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs have a long and rich history in Washington State, with communities that have been integral to the development and prosperity of our region for over a century; and

WHEREAS, The principles of Sikhism, including equality, justice, and service to humanity, align closely with the values upon which our state and nation were founded; and

WHEREAS, Despite their significant contributions and unwavering commitment to our communities, Sikhs have often faced discrimination, harassment, and violence due to ignorance and prejudice; and

WHEREAS, One of the darkest chapters in this history occurred on September 4, 1907, when a mob in Bellingham targeted Sikh laborers, resulting in the infamous Bellingham Riots; and

WHEREAS, During these riots, Sikh workers were violently attacked, their homes and businesses vandalized, and many were forcibly expelled from the city, with some even facing death threats and physical harm; and

WHEREAS, The Bellingham Riots serve as a stark reminder of the dangers of xenophobia, racism, and bigotry, and highlight the importance of standing united against hate in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, It is essential that we remember and reflect upon this tragic event in our history to ensure that such injustices are never repeated and to reaffirm our commitment to building a more inclusive and equitable society for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor and celebrate the contribution of Sikhs in Washington State and recognize their significant role in shaping our state's history and identity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate reaffirm its commitment to combatting discrimination, hatred, and violence against Sikhs and all marginalized communities, and to promoting diversity, inclusion, and understanding throughout our state.