

SENATE RESOLUTION

8679

By Senator Dhingra

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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