

SENATE RESOLUTION

8645

By Senators Hunt and Sheldon

1 WHEREAS, The West African nation of Togo has, since 2006, made  
2 important human rights and democratic reforms that include generally  
3 free and fair legislative elections; and

4 WHEREAS, Togo's population of 7.7 million people represent a  
5 broad diversity of tribal traditions and religious beliefs and has,  
6 as a nation, welcomed refugees from neighboring countries; and

7 WHEREAS, Togo has sought to increase access to primary education  
8 by eliminating school enrollment fees; and

9 WHEREAS, Recent efforts to improve its business climate and  
10 attract investment by embracing free enterprise and entrepreneurship  
11 is providing an environment where individuals can better lift  
12 themselves out of poverty and attain self-sufficiency; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States Government is recognizing these  
14 economic reforms by inviting Togo to host the 2017 African Growth and  
15 Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum, which will bring together government,  
16 private sector, and civil societies from 38 African countries and the  
17 United States to explore ways to increase trade between the U.S. and  
18 Africa; and

19 WHEREAS, Togo is an important and valuable trading partner with  
20 the State of Washington as evidenced by its trade with the Tumwater-  
21 based natural body products organization, Alaffia; and

22 WHEREAS, Alaffia's headquarters and production facility in  
23 Tumwater provides jobs for over 120 employees; generates a total of

1 284 direct, indirect, and induced jobs; and creates more than 41  
2 million dollars in annual economic activity in Thurston County;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Alaffia directly and indirectly employs more than  
5 11,000 people in the nation of Togo; creates economic prosperity  
6 that is empowering women through Alaffia's fair-trade practices;  
7 pays four times the local wage; and provides funding for  
8 maternal health care, education, and other empowerment programs;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Alaffia's projects have resulted in 57,575 trees  
11 planted, 32,842 school supply recipients, 7,482 bikes  
12 distributed, 24,927 eyeglasses donated, and more than 4,463  
13 babies safely delivered in villages in Togo;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
15 Senate recognize the significant progress made by the nation of  
16 Togo and Alaffia in advancing the human condition; and  
17 acknowledge the potential value for both Washington state and  
18 Togo in increasing opportunities for trade; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
20 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the  
21 Honorable U.S. Ambassador David Gilmour, to the Alaffia  
22 Empowerment Council from the Nation of Togo, to Alaffia Founder  
23 Olowo-n'djo Tchala, and to Alaffia Co-Founder Rose Hyde.

24 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,  
25 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
26 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8645,  
27 adopted by the Senate  
28 April 13, 2017

29 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
30 Secretary of the Senate