

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4673, by Representatives Muri, Kilduff, Appleton, Sawyer, Johnson, Griffey, and S. Hunt

1 WHEREAS, There is nothing on the planet quite as wonderful as a
2 black and white giant panda, also known as *ailuropoda melanoleuca*;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Pandas are an endangered species and the rarest member
5 of the bear family; and

6 WHEREAS, An estimated 1,800 wild pandas live in remote,
7 mountainous regions in China, where they subsist on a bamboo diet;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, There continue to be conservation efforts to protect
10 pandas and improve panda habitat; and

11 WHEREAS, The first panda born in captivity was born in a Beijing
12 zoo in 1963; and

13 WHEREAS, An estimated 300 pandas live in breeding centers and
14 zoos in the world; and

15 WHEREAS, Four zoos in the United States house pandas; and

16 WHEREAS, Pandas symbolize the long-standing friendship between
17 Washington state, the Sichuan Province, and the People's Republic of
18 China; and

19 WHEREAS, The Washington State Panda Foundation was formed under
20 the leadership of former Governor John Spellman, who initiated a
21 close friendship with Sichuan Province in 1982 to explore the
22 possibility of bringing pandas to Washington state; and

1 WHEREAS, The Washington State Panda Foundation works to showcase
2 business partnerships, promote natural science, and expand our
3 state's friendship with the People's Republic of China through panda
4 exchange; and

5 WHEREAS, In late 2015, a group of state lawmakers and President
6 Xi Jinping exchanged letters recognizing opportunities for
7 cooperation and goodwill that could come with Washington state
8 hosting pandas; and

9 WHEREAS, At least two Washington state zoos, the Woodland Park
10 Zoo and Point Defiance Zoo, are being considered as possible panda
11 host locations through an exchange program; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to the many cultural, scientific, and
13 business opportunities that may come with hosting pandas, it is well
14 known that pandas put smiles on the faces of everyone who encounters
15 these bears;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Washington State House of
17 Representatives commend the efforts of the Washington State Panda
18 Foundation, Woodland Park Zoo, and Point Defiance Zoo in working with
19 the People's Republic of China to bring pandas to Washington state
20 through an exchange; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
22 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
23 Representatives to the Washington State Panda Foundation.

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25 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
26 Resolution 4673 adopted by the House of Representatives
27 February 26, 2016

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Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk