

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**JOINT RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE HOLODOMOR
AS AN ACT OF GENOCIDE AGAINST THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE**

WHEREAS, the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, was a human-made famine that caused the deaths of at least 5,000,000 innocent men, women and children in Ukraine, resulting in the annihilation of an estimated 25% of the rural population of the country, an area that at the time was one of the most productive agricultural areas of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, the human-made famine also resulted in the deaths of an estimated 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 people in regions outside Ukraine, mostly in the largely ethnically Ukrainian North Caucasus territory; and

WHEREAS, these people were starved to death by forced agricultural collectivization and grain seizures by the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Western observers and scholars who accurately reported on the existence of the famine as it was occurring were subjected to disparagement and criticism; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union and many scholars in the West denied the existence of the famine until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 made access to Soviet Union archives, and thereby the documentation of the premeditated nature of the famine and its harsh enforcement, possible; and

WHEREAS, the final report, delivered to Congress on April 12, 1998, of the United States Commission on the Ukraine Famine concluded that the victims "starved to death in a man-made famine" and that Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin "and those around him committed genocide against the Ukrainians in 1932-1933"; and

WHEREAS, although the famine resulted in one of the largest losses of human life in the 20th century, its occurrence remains insufficiently known in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, official recognition of the famine by the government of Ukraine, including by the country's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, represents a significant step in the reestablishment of Ukraine's national identity and the advancement of efforts to establish a democratic and free Ukraine that is fully integrated into the Western community of nations; and

WHEREAS, whether it was political oppression or religious persecution that caused Ukrainian immigrants to pursue better lives for themselves and their families, their desire to live in peace and enjoy liberty was so strong that generations of Ukrainian immigrants came to the United States in an effort to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, Ukraine has marked an annual commemoration for the victims of the famine; and

WHEREAS, a memorial to the millions who perished in the Holodomor was erected in Washington, D.C. in 2015, and the dedication ceremony took place in November of that year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to commemorate the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, to solemnly remember and honor its millions of victims and to recognize the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people.