

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRELAND**

WHEREAS, on October 7, 1924, Ireland formally opened diplomatic relations with the United States when Ambassador Timothy Smiddy presented his credentials to President Calvin Coolidge; and

WHEREAS, after the Irish people's long and painful struggle for independence, the United States was one of the first nations to recognize the fledgling Irish state, and when Ambassador Smiddy emerged from the White House, he became Ireland's first ambassador to any country in the world; and

WHEREAS, while 1924 marked the beginning of formal diplomatic relations, the deep Irish-American connection dates back centuries, and today nearly one in 10 Americans identify as being of Irish ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Irish immigrants helped build the America we know today, from the skyscrapers of Manhattan and the transcontinental railroad to our modern political system; and

WHEREAS, Irish-Americans have made an enormous contribution to public debate and politics in America, from their local communities to the White House, and more than 20 American presidents have claimed some Irish ancestry; and

WHEREAS, the influence of Irish people in America extends well beyond the Oval Office and the United States Capitol to every state of the nation, and there are a significant number of state Legislators within the American Irish State Legislators Caucus; and

WHEREAS, since Timothy Smiddy's momentous audience in the Oval Office 100 years ago, 18 Irish ambassadors have presented credentials to American presidents, and over this time, Ireland's relations with the United States have evolved significantly; and

WHEREAS, from an impoverished and internationally isolated state, scarred by years of conflict, Ireland has transformed over the past century into the economically prosperous and culturally vibrant peaceful nation of today, and this transformation is due in part to the support of friends in the United States, from the crucial role America played in brokering peace in Northern Ireland, culminating with the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, to the substantial American economic investment in Ireland; and

WHEREAS, there are almost 1,000 American companies in Ireland employing over 200,000 people, and approximately 100,000 people are employed in every state in the United States by over 650 Irish-owned companies, and Ireland is now the 9th largest source of foreign direct investment in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the diplomatic relationship between the United States and Ireland is a shining example of how ancestral ties, historical connections, cultural affinities and shared values can create a foundation for enduring partnership and mutual prosperity, and Irish-American state

Legislators across the United States are playing a vitally important role in fostering this partnership and ensuring that it continues and flourishes for another century to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Ireland; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the American Irish State Legislators Caucus.