

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH  
FARMERS PROTESTING THE PASSAGE OF FARMING  
BILLS IN INDIA AND IN SUPPORT OF AFFECTED  
MEMBERS OF FRESNO'S SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the State of California remains a proud farming community; and

WHEREAS, the State of California understands and respects the contributions of  
farmers in feeding nations; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is home to thousands of farmers who still own  
farmland in their ancestral countries; and

WHEREAS, the Indian government proposed and passed bills in September 2020  
to deregulate the sale of crops in India, by dismantling minimum support prices for crops,  
removing restrictions on purchase of land by corporations, and removing limits on  
stockpiling commodities; and

WHEREAS, these laws set off protests across north India, particularly in the states  
of Punjab and Haryana, and resulted in over 250,000 farmers protesting on national  
highways entering the Indian Capital of New Delhi; and

WHEREAS, India's violence against peaceful protestors has included the use of  
tear gas, water cannons, barricades, and baton attacks; and

WHEREAS, many of these farmers have children, relatives, and friends who live  
in the United States and Fresno; and

WHEREAS, 86 percent of Indian farmers own only two or fewer acres of farmland  
with an average income of \$1,400 per year, and do not have the means to bargain with  
large, private corporations; and

WHEREAS, anti-farmer policies, debt, and a deteriorating financial status have led to 363,726 Indian farmers and farm laborers committing suicide between 1995 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, the government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been criticized for silencing religious minorities, including Sikhs and Muslims, and these policies have the most negative impacts on food and economic security in the state of Punjab, home to India's largest Sikh community; and

WHEREAS, protecting agriculture and small farmers hurt most by the legislation should be a priority; and

WHEREAS, farmers have the right to demonstrate peacefully and the City Council condemns any police brutality; and

WHEREAS, numerous rallies have recently taken place across the State of California protesting the bills, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has long recognized and stood with diverse communities whose families have faced hardship abroad.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The City of Fresno stands in solidarity with those protesting and condemns the violence of the Indian government in suppressing the rights of peaceful protestors, farmers, and their families who have been directly affected.

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