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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY McCOY

A Resolution demanding that Governor Arne Carlson make a public apology for defamatory comments about the city of Des Moines.

WHEREAS, with a population of more than 600,000 in the nine-county Central Iowa area, Greater Des Moines provides many advantages of both large-city and small-town living; and

WHEREAS, respected national publications such as U.S. News and World Report and The Economist call Des Moines one of the "boom towns" in the United States due to its steadily increasing work force, low jobless rate, high per capita income, and world class schools; and

WHEREAS, according to Reliastar Financial Corp., a Minneapolis based holding company, Des Moines is the number 5 city in the United States offering its residents an opportunity for financial security; and

WHEREAS, more than \$3.5 billion in new construction and renovation has occurred in downtown Des Moines over the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Des Moines is the home of a new baseball stadium, recently listed as the sixth best minor league stadium in the country by Baseball America magazine, which was financed and constructed with civic hometown pride; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Iowa, including the residents of the Greater Des Moines Area, place a high value on respecting a neighbor and taking

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1 responsibility for personal actions; and

2 WHEREAS, on Saturday, February 15, Minnesota
3 Governor Arne Carlson, as part of a speech defending a
4 proposal for the construction of a taxpayer-subsidized
5 baseball stadium, defamed the City of Des Moines by
6 making remarks coming out of left field disparaging
7 the health and vitality of the City of Des Moines; and

8 WHEREAS, many citizens and businesses of Minnesota
9 have expressed embarrassment that Governor Carlson
10 made a bad call during his speech, and has failed to
11 correct his perception; NOW THEREFORE,

12 BE IT RESOLVED, That Governor Arne Carlson
13 acknowledge that he committed an error and apologize
14 to the citizens of Iowa and specifically to the
15 residents of Greater Des Moines; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Iowans support Iowa-
17 based businesses, including the thriving business
18 community in Des Moines, and specifically boycott the
19 Mall of America in order to drive home to Governor
20 Carlson that he has just struck out; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the
22 Senate send copies of this resolution to Governor Arne
23 Carlson and to the chairman of the board of the
24 Minneapolis Star Tribune.

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