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JOINT RESOLUTION COMMENDING PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA ON HIS SELECTION OF THE HONORABLE GEORGE J. MITCHELL AS MIDDLE EAST ENVOY AND URGING A JUST RESOLUTION OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

WE, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the President of the United States as follows:

WHEREAS, a durable peace and true and lasting security for both Israelis and Palestinians lie in resolution of their destructive conflict and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, the prolongation of destructive conflict between Israelis and Palestinians would inevitably result in more tragedy for all those involved, especially for young and innocent victims; and

WHEREAS, many authorities, including the 9/11 Commission and the Iraq Study Group, have concluded that achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is in the vital interest of both societies now caught up in the conflict, as well as in the interest of the people of the broader Middle East and the United States and other nations; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that the good offices of the United States Government are crucial to the achievement of any just and equitable resolution of Israeli and Palestinian conflict; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable George J. Mitchell has previously demonstrated that he is exceptionally qualified to bring parties in conflict together to facilitate negotiations to achieve a just resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the people of the State of Maine to join in support of this important international effort; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Legislature, now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, commend President Barack H. Obama on his selection of the Honorable George J. Mitchell as United States Special Envoy to the Middle East, and we send our appreciation to Senator Mitchell for his willingness to accept this important and challenging assignment; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We respectfully urge and petition President Barack H. Obama, Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton, Senator George J. Mitchell and their colleagues to do all they can to move Israelis and Palestinians toward reconciliation and a just peace acceptable to all and we call upon the Members of the Maine Congressional Delegation to give all possible support to the efforts of the executive branch of the United States to work for peace in the Middle East; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Barack H. Obama, President of the United States, Secretary of

HP1017, LD 8888, item 1, 124th Maine State Legislature

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State Hillary R. Clinton, Senator George J. Mitchell and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.