Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1090

By: Wesselhoft, Armes, Auffet, Bailey, Banz, Benge, Billy, Blackwell, Brannon, Brown, Buck, Cannaday, Carey, Christian, Collins, Coody, Cooksey, Cox, Dank, Denney, Derby, DeWitt, Dorman, Duncan, Enns, Faught, Fields, Glenn, Hamilton, Harrison, Hickman, Hilliard, Holland, Hoskin, Inman, Jackson, Jett, Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Joyner, Kern, Key, Kiesel, Kirby, Kouplen, Lamons, Liebmann, Luttrell, Martin (Scott), Martin (Steve), McAffrey, McCullough, McDaniel (Jeannie), McDaniel (Randy), McNiel, McPeak, Miller, Moore, Morgan, Morrissette, Murphey, Nations, Nelson, Ortega, Osborn, Ownbey, Peters, Peterson, Pittman, Proctor, Pruett, Renegar, Reynolds, Richardson, Ritze, Roan, Rousselot, Russ, Sanders, Schwartz, Scott, Sears, Shannon, Shelton, Sherrer, Shoemake, Shumate, Smithson, Steele, Sullivan, Terrill, Thompson, Thomsen, Tibbs, Trebilcock, Walker, Watson, Williams, Wright (Harold) and Wright (John)

A Resolution encouraging the United States Congress to craft legislation which supports the democratic aspirations of the Iranian people by enhancing their ability to access the Internet and communications services; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Government of Iran has engaged in a brutal crackdown on the Iranian people in the aftermath of the disputed

presidential election of June 12, 2009, stifling freedom of speech, press, and assembly and violating fundamental human rights; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2009, the United States House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 560 by a vote of 405-1, "expressing support for all Iranian citizens who struggle for freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and the protection of the rule of law"; and

WHEREAS, Iran's security forces, particularly the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the Basij volunteer militia, have been largely responsible for the violence and brutality committed against the Iranian people in the recent unrest; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Iranian protesters have been arrested and detained for taking part in public demonstrations, with many being raped and tortured to extract false confessions to be used against them and others as part of the government-run "show trials"; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2009, twenty-six year old Neda Agha Soltan was shot and killed by a member of the Basij militia, symbolizing for Iranians and people all over the world the government's brutal crackdown against peaceful demonstrators; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma respects and admires the Iranian people as they take steps to peacefully express their voices, opinions, and aspirations in protest of the Iranian government; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Iran is engaged in a range of activities that interfere with and infringe upon the right of the Iranian people to access independent news and information and to exercise basic freedoms, in particular through electronic media; and

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2009, a consortium reportedly controlled by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps purchased a controlling interest in the Iranian Telecommunications Company; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2009, the Government of Iran announced the establishment of a special security force to police opposition activities on the Internet; and

WHEREAS, on numerous occasions, including most recently ahead of student demonstrations on December 7, 2009, the Government of Iran has restricted access to Internet and telecommunications networks in order to limit popular dissent; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the disputed June 2009 Iranian presidential elections, the Iranian people utilized Twitter, Facebook, and other personal communication technologies to organize demonstrations and related activities; and

WHEREAS, citing the crucial role that Internet communications technologies were playing in the postelection Iran, the Department of State requested Twitter delay a planned maintenance so that Iranians could continue use of the service without interruption; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a vital interest in working to ensure that its policies do not unintentionally aid in the repressive policies of the Government of Iran or hinder the Iranian people's basic rights and freedoms; and

WHEREAS, current sanctions on Iran, if not modified pertaining to Internet access, will continue to have the unintended effect of stifling Iranians' access to the Internet and related Internet technologies; and

WHEREAS, Microsoft and Google have ceased providing instant messaging services to Iranians, citing United States economic sanctions; and

WHEREAS, in a September 2009 response regarding the suspension of messaging services within Iran by Microsoft and Google, Director of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), Adam Szubin, stated that, "Ensuring the flow and access to information available through the Internet and similar public sources is consistent with the policy interests of the United States Government."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives respects the universal values of freedom of speech, freedom of press, and the freedom to assemble; supports the Iranian people seeking access to news, electronic communication, and other forms of information; encourages the development and provision of technologies and services to the Iranian people that enable them to communicate with each other and the outside world; encourages provision of software and related services that allow private Iranian citizens to circumvent online censorship and monitoring efforts imposed by the

Government of Iran; and encourages companies, organizations, and individuals to enable large numbers of users to bypass censorship and surveillance technologies, for the purposes of promoting Iranians' unfettered access to the Internet, which is a civil liberty that should be enjoyed by all people.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages the United States Congress to craft legislation which supports the democratic aspirations of the Iranian people by enhancing their ability to access the Internet and communication services.

THAT a copy of the House Resolution be distributed to members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 10th day of May, 2010.

Kris Steele

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this

11th **day of** May, **20** 10,

at 9:50 **o'clock** A **M.**

By: M. Susan Crosby