

RESOLUTION

Whereas . . . The Department of State's J-1 Visa Summer Work Travel (SWT) program awards visas to international students who wish to travel to the United States during their schools' summer breaks, and

Whereas . . . this public diplomacy program has a long track record of success, providing an enriching exchange experience to a diverse pool of college and university student from across the globe, and

Whereas . . . this program affords these students the opportunity to experience the American way of life, American business culture, work alongside Americans, and improve their English-language skills, and

Whereas . . . through the built-in work component that places the student in temporary, seasonal jobs, they can defray their living and travel expenses, and

Whereas . . . the SWT program regulations contain provisions to ensure that exchange visitors do not displace American workers, and

Whereas . . . the SWT program plays an important role for local communities across the United States allowing businesses to operate at capacity during peak season, and

Whereas . . . the Wisconsin Dells \$1.1 billion tourism economy, in particular, is highly dependent on the SWT program.

Therefore . . . the Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau urges the US Department of State to continue to strengthen this important and successful cultural exchange program that enriches and supports communities across the United States.

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