



H.Res. 1307 – Commemorating the Kingdom of Bhutan's participation in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and commending the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan for their commitment to holding elections and broadening political participation

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1307 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Brian Baird (D-WA) on June 26, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1307 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 9, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1307 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Commemorates Bhutan's participation in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival;
- Recognizes the important cultural, artistic, agricultural, and environmental achievements of Bhutan and the Bhutanese people;
- Commends the Bhutanese people, the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan, and His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck for their commitment to conducting parliamentary elections and transitioning from an absolute monarchy to a parliamentary democracy; and
- Remains committed to working with Bhutan, should it so desire, to foster cultural exchange and to assist in promoting democratic reform

BACKGROUND

Bhutan is a small, landlocked country in Southern Asia which borders China and India. Bhutan's population is approximately 670,000. The economy of Bhutan is one of the world's smallest, but has experienced rapid growth in recent years. The Bhutanese economy is based primarily on agriculture, tourism, and hydroelectric power. The main religions in Bhutan are Buddhism and Hinduism.

After decades of monarchic rule, Bhutan held its first democratic elections in March 2008. Bhutan is now a constitutional monarchy. The Prime Minister of Bhutan is Jigme Thinley. Bhutan participated in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. The festival is held annually on the National Mall and is an exposition of living cultural heritage from the United States and other countries.

[2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival - Bhutan](#)

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