

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1015

By: Thomsen

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution opposing the invitation to Richard
8 Dawkins to speak on campus; encouraging the
9 University of Oklahoma to engage in a certain
10 discussion of certain scientific theories; and
11 directing distribution.

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13 WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma is a publicly funded
14 institution which should be open to all ideas and should train
15 students in all disciplines of study and research and to use
16 independent thinking and free inquiry; and

17 WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma has planned a year-long
18 celebration of the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin and the 150th
19 anniversary of Darwin's theory of evolution, called the "Darwin 2009
20 Project", which includes a series of lectures, public speakers, and
21 a course on the history of evolution; and

22 WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma, as a part of the Darwin
23 2009 Project, has invited as a public speaker on campus, Richard
24 Dawkins of Oxford University, whose published opinions, as

1 represented in his 2006 book "The God Delusion", and public
2 statements on the theory of evolution demonstrate an intolerance for
3 cultural diversity and diversity of thinking and are views that are
4 not shared and are not representative of the thinking of a majority
5 of the citizens of Oklahoma; and

6 WHEREAS, the invitation for Richard Dawkins to speak on the
7 campus of the University of Oklahoma on Friday, March 6, 2009, will
8 only serve to present a biased philosophy on the theory of evolution
9 to the exclusion of all other divergent considerations rather than
10 teaching a scientific concept.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

13 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representative strongly opposes the
14 invitation to speak on the campus of the University of Oklahoma to
15 Richard Dawkins of Oxford University, whose published statements on
16 the theory of evolution and opinion about those who do not believe
17 in the theory are contrary and offensive to the views and opinions
18 of most citizens of Oklahoma.

19 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages the
20 University of Oklahoma to engage in an open, dignified, and fair
21 discussion of the Darwinian theory of evolution and all other
22 scientific theories which is the approach that a public institution
23 should be engaged in and which represents the desire and interest of
24 the citizens of Oklahoma.

1 THAT a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President
2 of the University of Oklahoma, the Dean of the College of Arts and
3 Science at the University of Oklahoma, and the Chair of the
4 Department of Zoology at the University of Oklahoma.

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6 52-1-7275 KB 03/03/09

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