1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 35

March 18, 1999 – Introduced by Representatives Morris-Tatum, Young, Williams, Turner, Coggs, Freese, Plouff, Reynolds, Pocan, Black and J. Lehman, cosponsored by Senators George, Burke and Darling. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: establishing a sister–state relationship with the Dakar Region of Senegal.

Whereas, the continent of Africa has been recognized as an economic and

educational development opportunity for export expansion for the State of Wisconsin

5 and the nation; and

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Whereas, according to a report of the Governor's Wisconsin International Trade Council Taskforce on How to Create a Global Generation in Wisconsin, the increase of the number of sister–city and sister–state partnerships is integral to Wisconsin in meeting the national average of formal sister–state relationships. To achieve our potential from this type of educational, economic and cultural experience, Wisconsin would need to partner with 11 more international jurisdictions; and

Whereas, African American residents of Wisconsin are developing trade, commerce and cultural ties with the Senegalese people; and

Whereas, Goree Island, which is located in the Dakar Region of Senegal, was the debarkation point for African slaves bound for American shores, which makes it 1

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extremely likely that there are African Americans currently residing in Wisconsin who are descendants of people from that region; and

Whereas, a sister-state relationship would benefit both Wisconsin and the Dakar Region of Senegal by facilitating an exchange of information and ideas, by promoting trade, economic development and travel between the 2 regions and by increasing educational exchange programs between them; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature encourage this state's executive branch to establish a sister–state relationship between Wisconsin and the Dakar Region of Senegal.

10 (END)