

House Resolution

No. 36

**Introduced by Assembly Members Richman and Canciamilla
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Bass, Benoit, Berg, Bermudez, Blakeslee, Bogh, Calderon, Chan, Chavez, Cogdill, Cohn, Coto, Daucher, DeVore, Emmerson, Frommer, Garcia, Goldberg, Haynes, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Huff, Karnette, Keene, Koretz, La Malfa, Laird, Leno, Lieber, Liu, Matthews, Maze, Mountjoy, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Niello, Parra, Plescia, Ridley-Thomas, Sharon Runner, Ruskin, Salinas, Strickland, Tran, Walters, Wolk, Wyland, and Yee)**

August 24, 2006

House Resolution No. 36—Relative to Pluto’s planetary status.

- 1 WHEREAS, Recent astronomical discoveries, including
- 2 Pluto’s oblong orbit and the sighting of a slightly larger Kuiper
- 3 Belt object, have led astronomers to question the planetary status
- 4 of Pluto; and
- 5 WHEREAS, The mean-spirited International Astronomical
- 6 Union decided on August 24, 2006, to disrespect Pluto by
- 7 stripping Pluto of its planetary status and reclassifying it as a
- 8 lowly dwarf planet; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Pluto was discovered in 1930 by an American,
- 10 Clyde Tombaugh, at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona, and this
- 11 discovery resulted in millions of Californians being taught that
- 12 Pluto was the ninth planet in the solar system; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Pluto, named after the Roman God of the
- 14 underworld and affectionately sharing the name of California’s

1 most famous animated dog, has a special connection to
2 California history and culture; and

3 WHEREAS, Downgrading Pluto's status will cause
4 psychological harm to some Californians who question their
5 place in the universe and worry about the instability of universal
6 constants; and

7 WHEREAS, The deletion of Pluto as a planet renders millions
8 of text books, museum displays, and children's refrigerator art
9 projects obsolete, and represents a substantial unfunded mandate
10 that must be paid by dwindling Proposition 98 education funds,
11 thereby harming California's children and widening its budget
12 deficits; and

13 WHEREAS, The deletion of Pluto as a planet is a hasty,
14 ill-considered scientific heresy similar to questioning the
15 Copernican theory, drawing maps of a round world, and proving
16 the existence of the time and space continuum; and

17 WHEREAS, The downgrading of Pluto reduces the number of
18 planets available for legislative leaders to hide redistricting
19 legislation and other inconvenient political reform measures; and

20 WHEREAS, The California Legislature, in the closing days of
21 the 2005–06 session, has been considering few matters important
22 to the future of California, and the status of Pluto takes
23 precedence and is worthy of this body's immediate attention;
24 now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
26 Assembly hereby condemns the International Astronomical
27 Union's decision to strip Pluto of its planetary status for its
28 tremendous impact on the people of California and the state's
29 long term fiscal health; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Assembly Clerk shall send a copy of the
31 resolution to the International Astronomical Union and to any
32 Californian who, believing that his or her legislator is addressing
33 the problems that threaten the future of the Golden State, requests
34 a copy of the resolution.