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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Kastama, McAuliffe, Holmquist, Marr, Hatfield, Berkey, Franklin, Hobbs, Delvin, and Jacobsen

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO AMBASSADOR RONALD KIRK,  
5 UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The economic prosperity of the United States is best  
10 served by embracing free and fair trade in global markets, investing in  
11 innovative research and technologies, and providing assistance to  
12 workers impacted by technology and trade trends; and

13 WHEREAS, Expanding trade opportunities for American workers and  
14 businesses depends on cooperation between the federal government and  
15 the states; and

16 WHEREAS, The trade liberalization efforts of the early 1990s and  
17 trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and  
18 the World Trade Organization Uruguay Round agreements have increased  
19 the role of state policymakers in international trade decisions; and

1       WHEREAS, Trade liberalization has transformed the historical state-  
2 federal division of power and taxed state agency resources in dealing  
3 with the world marketplace; and

4       WHEREAS, Recent trade agreements have proceeded beyond discussion  
5 of tariffs and quotas and now address government regulation, taxation,  
6 procurement, and economic development policies that are implemented at  
7 state and local levels; and

8       WHEREAS, States often lack a clearly defined institutional trade  
9 policy structure, making it difficult to handle requests from trading  
10 partners and federal agencies and to articulate a unified state stance  
11 on trade issues; and

12       WHEREAS, International lawsuits may be brought against states and  
13 governments found to be in violation of trade agreements; and

14       WHEREAS, The State of Washington has inadvertently become involved  
15 in international trade disputes involving the biodiesel and aerospace  
16 industries; and

17       WHEREAS, There is a need for a stronger federal-state trade policy  
18 consultation mechanism; and

19       WHEREAS, Many state and local executive, legislative, and judicial  
20 branch officials have voiced the need for an informed, nonpartisan  
21 trade policy dialogue on a national level; and

22       WHEREAS, Federal-state communication and cooperation in the  
23 implementation of trade agreements is needed now more than ever before;  
24 and

25       WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee, a state-  
26 appointed advisory committee to the United States Trade Representative,  
27 plays an important role in providing state input to the United States  
28 Trade Representative but is limited by an inability to share classified  
29 information with relevant state officials and members of the public;  
30 and

31       WHEREAS, Compartmentalization of information within the  
32 Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee prevents members from  
33 gathering important and relevant information from those state officials  
34 and members of the public; and

35       WHEREAS, Even in states with Intergovernmental Policy Advisory  
36 Committee representation, the actions of state regulators often affect  
37 or implicate international trade without a consistent way for those

1 state regulators to receive or offer information on some trade issues  
2 because of the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee's  
3 compartmentalization; and

4 WHEREAS, In August 2004, the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory  
5 Committee recommended that a Federal-State International Trade Policy  
6 Commission would be an ideal resource for objective trade policy  
7 analysis and would foster communication among federal and state trade  
8 policy officials; and

9 WHEREAS, The creation of a federal-state trade policy  
10 infrastructure would assist states in understanding the scope of  
11 federal trade efforts, would assist federal agencies in understanding  
12 the various state trade processes, and would give states meaningful  
13 input in the United States Trade Representative's activities;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the  
15 United States Trade Representative create a Federal-State International  
16 Trade Policy Commission with information sharing capacity and  
17 membership to be drawn from federal and state trade policy officials;  
18 and also respectfully request that Congress allocate sufficient funds  
19 to the Federal-State International Trade Policy Commission to allow it  
20 to analyze trade data, communicate with the states and state  
21 regulators, foster consultations during negotiations, and work with  
22 trading partners.

23 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
24 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
25 States, the Ambassador Ronald Kirk, United States Trade Representative,  
26 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
27 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
28 Washington.

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