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State of Washington

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2012 Regular Session

By House Community & Economic Development & Housing (originally sponsored by Representatives Kenney, Finn, Santos, Ryu, Maxwell, and Sells; by request of Lieutenant Governor)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/12.

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 EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF
4 WASHINGTON, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE
5 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES
6 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES
7 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES
8 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

9 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
10 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
11 represent and petition as follows:

12 WHEREAS, The United States and Canada enjoy a partnership long
13 rooted in a history of peaceful coexistence and one of the largest and
14 most successful economic relationships in the world; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States and Canada are each other's largest
16 single export market; and

17 WHEREAS, Millions of jobs in both the United States and Canada
18 depend on the trade and investment flowing across the border between
19 the two countries; and

1 WHEREAS, Canada is Washington's top trading partner, based on 2010
2 data, and our companies and industries depend on integrated
3 cross-border supply chains and production processes; and

4 WHEREAS, On February 4, 2011, the Prime Minister of Canada and the
5 President of the United States issued a declaration on a Shared Vision
6 for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness, which called for
7 a joint action plan; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States and Canada established a Beyond the
9 Border Working Group composed of representatives from the relevant
10 departments and offices of their federal governments to develop the
11 action plan and be responsible for its implementation; and

12 WHEREAS, The Beyond the Border Action Plan was released in December
13 of 2011; and

14 WHEREAS, The Beyond the Border Action Plan details methods for the
15 United States and Canada to work together to enhance joint security and
16 accelerate the legitimate flow of people, goods, and services through
17 four areas of cooperation: (1) Addressing threats early; (2) trade
18 facilitation, economic growth, and jobs; (3) cross-border law
19 enforcement; and (4) critical infrastructure and cybersecurity; and

20 WHEREAS, On February 4, 2011, the Prime Minister of Canada and the
21 President of the United States announced the creation of the United
22 States-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council to increase regulatory
23 transparency and coordination between the two countries; and

24 WHEREAS, The initial Joint Action Plan of the Regulatory
25 Cooperation Council was released in December of 2011; and

26 WHEREAS, The Action Plan on Regulatory Cooperation will help reduce
27 barriers to trade, lower costs for consumers and business, and create
28 economic opportunities on both sides of the border through the
29 alignment of regulatory approaches in the areas of agriculture and
30 food, transportation, health and personal care products, chemical
31 management, the environment, and other cross-sectoral areas, while not
32 compromising our health, safety, or environmental protection standards;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, Washington has much to gain from the development of joint
35 strategies and integrated approaches to enhance security and efficient
36 trade between Canada and the United States;

37 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
38 President, Executive Branch Agencies, and Congress work together to see

1 that the Beyond the Border Action Plan on Perimeter Security and
2 Economic Competitiveness and the Action Plan on Regulatory Cooperation
3 are carried out, and that the United States' appointees to the Beyond
4 the Border Working Group, the Regulatory Cooperation Council, and the
5 United States' agencies responsible for implementing the Action Plans
6 have the resources necessary to assist in realizing the goals of the
7 Action Plans.

8 BE IT RESOLVED, That the relevant committees of the Washington
9 state legislature monitor implementation of the Beyond the Border
10 Action Plan on Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness and the
11 Action Plan on Regulatory Cooperation for opportunities for state-level
12 cooperation and participation; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
14 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
15 States, each member of Congress from the State of Washington, the
16 Secretary of the United States Department of State, the United States
17 Attorney General, the Secretary of the United States Department of
18 Homeland Security, the Secretary of the United States Department of
19 Commerce, the Secretary of the United States Department of
20 Transportation, the President of the United States Senate, and the
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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