
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8004

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Parlette, Nelson, Tom, Zarelli, Fraser, Hewitt, Kline, Hatfield, and Murray

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 THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, AND TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE
6 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:

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

10 WHEREAS, The United States Department of the Interior manages
11 one-fifth of the land of the United States and offers unparalleled
12 recreational opportunities throughout the nation, affirming the
13 nation's intent to set aside certain areas of outstanding scenic and
14 scientific value for the enjoyment of present and future generations;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The National Park Service is a bureau of the United States
17 Department of the Interior and manages the 394 units of the national
18 park system. Annually, more than 500 million people visit the national
19 parks and monuments, wildlife refuges, and recreational sites; and

1 WHEREAS, Tourism is an important component of the Washington state
2 economy and is sustained, in part, by our national parks and forests,
3 including Mount Rainier National Park, North Cascades National Park,
4 and the Olympic National Park; and

5 WHEREAS, National parks provide significant economic benefits to
6 local communities, many of which are almost solely dependent upon
7 visitors to these parks; and

8 WHEREAS, the North Cascades National Park honors Washington state's
9 natural and cultural heritage and provides valuable educational and
10 recreational opportunities for our citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, The primitive road to Cottonwood Camp was built over 100
12 years ago in the late 1800s and existed prior to the creation of the
13 North Cascades National Park in 1968 and the Washington Parks
14 Wilderness Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-668); and

15 WHEREAS, The road leading to Cottonwood Camp provides revered
16 access to exceptional day hikes and fishing opportunities in the upper
17 Stehekin Valley by the residents of eastern Washington, as well as for
18 many people across this state and beyond; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Park Service developed a shuttle system
20 utilizing this primitive road corridor to facilitate more than 2,500
21 people per year access to the upper Stehekin Valley from eastern
22 Washington; and

23 WHEREAS, The upper portion of the road between Car Wash Falls and
24 Cottonwood Camp has been closed for many years due to historical
25 flooding events of the Stehekin river in two key areas, destroying a
26 critical link for hikers, horseback riders, and other recreationalists
27 between the Lake Chelan National Recreation area, the Stephen Mather
28 Wilderness trailheads, and the North Cascades National Park; and

29 WHEREAS, The closure of this primitive road has restricted access
30 for the old and young alike to witness the grandeur of this special
31 place in a day hike from eastern Washington; and

32 WHEREAS, Allowing the National Park Service to relocate and rebuild
33 the upper Stehekin Valley Road on higher ground with no net loss of
34 acreage to the park or the wilderness would preserve the park's
35 existing use as identified in the 1988 Washington Wilderness Act and
36 would mitigate the negative environmental impact of the road washing
37 out;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
2 States Congress, the United States Department of the Interior, and the
3 National Park Service work cooperatively with Washington state to
4 ensure that all citizens have the continued opportunity to access the
5 upper Stehekin Valley within the North Cascades National Park by
6 reestablishing this primitive road to keep this essential recreational
7 corridor open.

8 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
9 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
10 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior,
11 the Director of the National Park Service, the President of the United
12 States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each
13 member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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