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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8007**

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**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2013 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Trade & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Shin, Conway, Harper, Nelson, Kline, Becker, Hobbs, King, Eide, McAuliffe, Bailey, Hasegawa, Honeyford, Chase, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

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:

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

8 WHEREAS, The federal harbor maintenance tax is not collected on  
9 trans-pacific cargo shipped to the United States via rail or roads; and

10 WHEREAS, This noncollection of the harbor maintenance tax is an  
11 incentive to divert cargo away from United States ports; and

12 WHEREAS, The federal maritime commission inquiry into the harbor  
13 maintenance tax found that up to half of United States bound containers  
14 coming into Canada's west coast ports could revert to using United  
15 States west coast ports if United States importers were relieved from  
16 paying the tax; and

17 WHEREAS, Current United States law does not require the revenues  
18 raised through the harbor maintenance tax to be fully spent on harbor  
19 maintenance related investments; and

1       WHEREAS, The geography of harbor maintenance tax expenditures does  
2 not correlate with the states where harbor maintenance revenues are  
3 generated; and

4       WHEREAS, The balance of the harbor maintenance trust fund has grown  
5 to over seven billion dollars;

6       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that:

7       (1) Congress pass and the president sign legislation reforming the  
8 harbor maintenance tax; and

9       (2) Such legislation provide for full use of all harbor maintenance  
10 tax revenues, ensure United States tax policy does not disadvantage  
11 United States ports and maritime cargo, and provide greater equity for  
12 harbor maintenance tax donor ports through limited expanded use of the  
13 harbor maintenance revenues.

14       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
15 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
16 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
17 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
18 Washington.

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