

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4650, by Representatives Jenkins, Wilcox, Abbarno, Barkis, Bateman, Berg, Bergquist, Berry, Boehnke, Bronoske, Caldier, Callan, Chambers, Chandler, Chapman, Chase, Chopp, Cody, Corry, Davis, Dent, Dolan, Donaghy, Duerr, Dufault, Dye, Entenman, Eslick, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Frame, Gilday, Goehner, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hackney, Hansen, Harris, Harris-Talley, Hoff, Jacobsen, J. Johnson, Kirby, Klicker, Klippert, Kloba, Kraft, Kretz, Leavitt, Lekanoff, MacEwen, Macri, Maycumber, McCaslin, McEntire, Morgan, Mosbrucker, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Paul, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Ramos, Riccelli, Robertson, Rude, Rule, Ryu, Santos, Schmick, Sells, Senn, Shewmake, Simmons, Slatter, Springer, Steele, Stokesbary, Stonier, Sullivan, Sutherland, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Valdez, Vick, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Wicks, Wylie, Ybarra, and Young

1           WHEREAS, Former Representative and Senator Mark L. Doumit was a  
2 native of Wahkiakum County who spent 18 years in elected office  
3 serving the communities and citizens of Wahkiakum County, southwest  
4 Washington, and the State of Washington; and

5           WHEREAS, He was a proud graduate of Wahkiakum High School in  
6 Cathlamet, Washington in 1980, where he wrestled and played baseball,  
7 and later attended Lower Columbia College in Longview; and

8           WHEREAS, He began his career of service to his community as a  
9 volunteer firefighter and EMT in Cathlamet starting at age 16; and

10           WHEREAS, While still in high school, he began a lifelong career  
11 in the commercial salmon fishing industry, starting out as crew for  
12 his cousin Milt Doumit's fish buying business, then later as a  
13 commercial fisherman himself on the Columbia River; and

14           WHEREAS, In 1984 he earned his bachelor's degree in international  
15 business at Washington State University, including a study abroad at  
16 the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, affording him the opportunity  
17 to travel around Cold War-era Europe; and

18           WHEREAS, While still in college, he began a 40-year career in  
19 Alaska's commercial fishing industry, starting out as a summer  
20 cannery worker and fishing vessel crew in Bristol Bay and Prince  
21 William Sound, then later purchasing and operating his own salmon  
22 drift gillnet fishing vessel Cook Inlet, Alaska in 1986 where he  
23 spent the remainder of his Alaska fishing career every summer working

1 alongside family and friends such as his sons, his brothers Paul and  
2 Matt, and friends Gordie Souvenir and Fred Ostling; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1992, Mark, along with his brother John, purchased a  
4 cattle ranch in Cathlamet, which they later converted into Doumit  
5 Tree Farm after realizing that trees do not jump fences nor mind the  
6 rain as much as cattle do; and

7 WHEREAS, Mark retained Doumit Tree Farm until his passing,  
8 learning how to manage forests for both economic benefit and other  
9 values like wildlife habitat, built relationships with others in the  
10 forestry industry, and eventually followed in his father's footsteps  
11 to protect the land by selling some of it for conservation purposes;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mark's experiences in the fishing industry on the  
14 Columbia River and Alaska, cattle ranching, and tree farming gave him  
15 a deep appreciation and respect for our state's and country's natural  
16 resources, communities dependent on natural resources, people working  
17 in natural resources industries, and Washington's tribes whose  
18 history and culture is intimately tied to the land and water; and

19 WHEREAS, Mark ran for and was elected as a Wahkiakum County  
20 Commissioner in 1988 where he served until 1996, including helping to  
21 organize the county's response to the Inauguration Day Storm; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1996, Mark ran for and was elected to the Washington  
23 House of Representatives where he served until 2002; and

24 WHEREAS, While a member of the House, Mark served as Chair of the  
25 House Natural Resources Committee, where he was the driving force  
26 behind the transformative Forest & Fish Law in 1999, which improved  
27 forest practices and habitat for the benefit of both forestry  
28 industries and endangered salmon runs on more than 9 million acres of  
29 state and private forests and 60,000 miles of streams in Washington;  
30 and

31 WHEREAS, While a member of the House, Mark also served on the  
32 House Appropriations Committee where he helped negotiate state  
33 budgets and was regarded as a trusted voice on budget matters by both  
34 Democratic and Republican caucuses; and

35 WHEREAS, In 2002, he was appointed to succeed his friend and  
36 mentor Senator Sid Snyder in the Washington State Senate, where Mark  
37 served until 2006; and

1       WHEREAS, While a member of the Senate, Mark chaired the Senate  
2 Natural Resources Committee and served as vice chair of the Senate  
3 Ways & Means Committee where he continued to advocate for natural  
4 resources, natural resources-dependent industries and communities,  
5 and continued to be a respected voice on state budget matters; and

6       WHEREAS, While serving in the Legislature, Mark was widely  
7 respected by his fellow legislators, legislative staff, and the  
8 larger legislative community and earned a reputation for  
9 bipartisanship, integrity, kindness, a keen sense of humor,  
10 intelligence, strategic thinking, and grit, as well as someone who  
11 was hard to keep off the dance floor at the Governor's Inaugural  
12 Ball; and

13       WHEREAS, In 2006, Mark left legislative service to become a full-  
14 time advocate for working forests as Executive Director of the  
15 Washington Forest Protection Association in Olympia until his  
16 passing; and

17       WHEREAS, Mark continued advocating for natural resources  
18 communities in Olympia, and worked to recognize the importance of  
19 Washington's forestry industries in salmon recovery, combatting  
20 climate change, and preventing wildfire, and working to pass new  
21 funding for forest restoration and wildfire prevention; and

22       WHEREAS, Mark also continued to build relationships within the  
23 legislative community and promote collaboration between the forestry  
24 industry, Washington's tribes, and environmental interests in meeting  
25 natural resources challenges; and

26       WHEREAS, Even on the day of his passing, he was optimistic about  
27 the future of Washington's natural resources, excited to continue his  
28 work at WFPA, and looked forward to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic  
29 so that people could once again safely and effectively engage and  
30 build relationships to solve pressing issues; and

31       WHEREAS, Mark cherished the privilege of representing his  
32 community in the Legislature and representing the people working in  
33 the state's natural resources industries; and

34       WHEREAS, Mark passed away on June 21, 2021, at the age of 59, but  
35 his legacy lives on through his family, friends, colleagues, and  
36 record of service to the people of Washington; and

37       WHEREAS, Mark is survived by his wife Mindy; three sons Matthew,  
38 Benjamin, and David and their spouses Denise, Charleeann, and Molli;

1 his three grandchildren Huntleigh, Eliana, and Hudson; brothers John,  
2 James, Thomas, Patrick, and Matthew, sisters Anne and Helen; and many  
3 loving friends and extended family;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House  
5 of Representatives honor former Representative and Senator Mark  
6 Doumit and further his dedication and service to the citizens of  
7 Washington State.

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9 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of  
10 Resolution 4650 adopted by the House of Representatives  
11 February 28, 2022  
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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk