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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4025

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Kremen, Goldsmith and Hymes

Read first time 02/14/95. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1            TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, 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, Congressional ratification of the North American Free  
9 Trade Agreement and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs  
10 demonstrates our nation's commitment to eliminating economic barriers  
11 to an open and competitive trading system; and

12           WHEREAS, Promoting free and open trade with Canada and other  
13 nations is in the best economic interests of all Washington citizens;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, A border crossing fee would run counter to efforts by both  
16 Canada and the United States to facilitate the movement of people and  
17 goods across the border; and

18           WHEREAS, Collection of the fees would result in increased  
19 congestion at border entry points and disruption of the smooth flow of  
20 commercial traffic; and

1       WHEREAS, Citizens and businesses of Northwest Washington, North  
2 Central Washington, and Northeast Washington depend heavily upon  
3 thriving, reciprocal economic activity with the citizens of Canada; and

4       WHEREAS, Imposition of such fees would affect almost one hundred  
5 million Canadian and American travelers annually; and

6       WHEREAS, More than nineteen million people cross the border yearly  
7 from Canada into Northwest Washington at crossings at Blaine, Sumas,  
8 Point Roberts, and Lynden; and

9       WHEREAS, More than three hundred thousand Canadian citizens visit  
10 Washington state yearly to spend at least one night and contribute more  
11 than two hundred fifty million dollars to Washington state's economy;  
12 and

13       WHEREAS, The millions of people entering the United States have a  
14 direct and positive effect on the livelihoods of American citizens  
15 living near the Canadian border and on citizens throughout Washington  
16 state; and

17       WHEREAS, The proposed fees for visitors entering the United States  
18 would result in extreme financial hardship for many citizens and small  
19 businesses in Washington state;

20       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the 1996  
21 federal budget proposal to establish a United States border crossing  
22 fee be modified to eliminate the reference to the proposed United  
23 States entry fee.

24       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
25 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United  
26 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
27 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
28 Washington.

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