

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8002

58th Legislature
2003 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 22, 2003
YEAS 47 NAYS 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 16, 2003
YEAS 97 NAYS 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr.,
Secretary of the Senate of the
State of Washington, do hereby
certify that the attached is
**SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL
8002** as passed by the Senate and
the House of Representatives on
the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8002

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2003 Regular Session

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water (originally sponsored by Senators Morton, Hewitt, Sheahan, Stevens, Parlette, Mulliken, Oke and Roach)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/03.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND 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 HONORABLE ANN M.
5 VENEMAN, SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND TO DALE
6 BOSWORTH, CHIEF OF THE FOREST SERVICE, AND TO THE HONORABLE GAIL A.
7 NORTON, SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:

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

11 WHEREAS, Wildfires in forest areas are increasing at an alarming
12 rate with the 2002 fire season one of the most severe since the 1940s;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, There are over 180 million acres of public land near
15 communities with a high risk of fire; and

16 WHEREAS, Forest health both in Washington state and throughout the
17 nation has been on a steady decline in many forests over the last
18 thirty years; and

19 WHEREAS, Forest insect infestations, disease, overly dense forests,
20 weeds, and brush and shrub build-up are increasing problems; and

1 WHEREAS, Federal government agencies can help address the issues
2 faced by forests in Washington by working closely with the state and
3 local communities to restore damaged landscapes and appropriately
4 reforest and manage lands near homes and urban areas;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that there be
6 appropriate forest health-related management activities conducted on
7 all forestland and on all Washington national forests. Appropriate
8 forest management will enhance and protect the health of federal,
9 state, and private forestlands. Such efforts will reduce the effects
10 of catastrophic wildfire that threaten all forest values, including
11 wildlife, water quality, and recreation opportunities. Appropriate
12 management will protect communities within and surrounding the forests.

13 BE IT RESOLVED, That the United States Forest Service review the
14 effectiveness of current fire fighting procedures and fire fighting
15 procedures used in the past, including fire breaks established before
16 fires and fire lines established during fires, to ensure that the most
17 effective methods are used; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we strongly support federal management
19 activities to reduce the risk of further spreading of insects and
20 disease to state forestlands and private lands adjacent to federal
21 lands; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the United States Forest
23 Service to first focus management activities on federal lands that
24 threaten adjacent private lands to decrease the risk of wildfire that
25 could spread on to privately owned timberland, and then request from
26 Congress the authority to use revenue generated from harvest activities
27 to fund ecosystem restoration and reforestation activities to benefit
28 fish and wildlife and improve water quality; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the United States Forest
30 Service to strongly consider current market conditions and the economic
31 viability of timber sales when choosing harvest methods, encourage
32 innovative and efficient logging techniques that ensure adequate
33 protection for fish, wildlife, and water quality, and capture as much
34 economic value from timber as possible without compromising water
35 quality or wildlife habitat; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That federal, state, and local agencies
37 work together with the public to streamline the processes to jointly

1 address all forest health issues in order to stem the tide of forest
2 and grazing land wildfire, insect infestations, disease, and
3 environmental degradation; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That federal and state agencies work with
5 all stakeholders to promote efforts that provide policy solutions and
6 to conduct field operations so that our nation's public forests' health
7 issues can be addressed; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress provide adequate funding
9 levels for the United States Forest Service and continually assess the
10 progress towards a healthy forest environment;

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
12 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
13 States, the Honorable Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of the Department of
14 Agriculture, Dale Bosworth, Chief of the Forest Service, and the
15 Honorable Gail A. Norton, Secretary of the Department of the Interior,
16 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
18 Washington.

--- END ---