By Senators Brandland, Spanel, Kohl-Welles, Fraser and Rasmussen

WHEREAS, British Columbia and Washington State governments share a border, many natural resources, and geological and geographic similarities; and

WHEREAS, British Columbia and Washington State often work together to achieve our mutual goals, including British Columbia working together with Whatcom County officials to secure and streamline the border crossings and transportation throughout the region for the 2010 Winter Olympics in British Columbia; and

WHEREAS, The primary purpose of the Washington State Constitution is to educate our youth and prepare them to lead us into the future; and

WHEREAS, British Columbia also recognizes the importance and value of quality civic education; and

WHEREAS, Washington State and British Columbia sponsor nationally renowned legislative internship programs; and

WHEREAS, Washington State undergraduate interns spend their winter quarter or spring semester working in Olympia with staff and members of the Washington State House of Representatives or Senate; and

WHEREAS, In addition to their office work, interns participate in weekly academic seminars and workshops learning about the process of a representative democracy with a bicameral legislature; and

WHEREAS, British Columbia parliamentary internship offers an opportunity to university graduates to supplement their academic training by observing the daily workings of the Legislature firsthand; and

WHEREAS, Interns acquire skills and knowledge they can apply in their chosen careers and future life experiences that will further contribute to a greater public understanding and appreciation of parliamentary government; and

WHEREAS, For the third year the British Columbia and Washington State Legislative interns have participated in an exchange program to explore and learn about each other's history and government process; and

WHEREAS, We welcome the British Columbia Parliamentary interns to the Washington State Legislature and commend their numerous academic achievements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor the hard work and dedication it takes to put each of these programs together by also honoring Karen Aitken, the British Columbia Legislative Intern Program Director, and extending our deepest gratitude to our own Legislative intern coordinators, Judi Best and Joan Elgee, for putting together such excellent programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Karen Aitken, Judi Best, and Joan Elgee.

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution 8650, adopted by the Senate March 25, 2005

THOMAS HOEMANN Secretary of the Senate