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Senate Joint Memorial 8023

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senator Morton

Read first time 01/15/08. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

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 SECRETARIES OF THE  
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE UNITED STATES  
6 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

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

10 WHEREAS, The federal government first declared the gray wolf, *Canis*  
11 *lupus*, endangered in 1974 and it remains protected under the federal  
12 endangered species act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.; and

13 WHEREAS, The reestablishment of gray wolf populations in  
14 neighboring states will lead to the continued and increased dispersal  
15 of gray wolves into Washington; and

16 WHEREAS, Gray wolves prey primarily on medium and large mammals,  
17 and livestock, poultry, and pet kills are inevitable as gray wolves  
18 increasingly move into Washington; and

19 WHEREAS, The federal endangered species act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531,  
20 et seq., generally prohibits landowners from harassing, harming,

1 pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, or capturing  
2 an endangered species in order to protect their livestock from gray  
3 wolf depredation; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service is the agency  
5 with primary responsibility for managing the gray wolf and other  
6 endangered species, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
7 is the primary investigating agency for wolf depredation reports in  
8 Washington;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress,  
10 the United States Department of the Interior, and the United States  
11 Department of Agriculture, prioritize and provide increased resources  
12 for landowner assistance and timely federal investigation of wolf  
13 depredation reports in Washington.

14 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
15 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
16 States, the Secretaries of the United States Department of the Interior  
17 and the United States Department of Agriculture, the President of the  
18 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
19 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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