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**ENGROSSED HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4008**

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**State of Washington**

**52nd Legislature**

**1991 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives R. King, Hochstatter, Cole, Orr, Haugen, Basich, Wilson, Spanel, Fuhrman, Padden, Winsley, D. Sommers, Bowman, Paris, May, Miller, Riley, Brough, Silver, Nealey, Forner, Wynne, Sheldon, Fraser, Phillips, Jones, Brumsickle, Nelson, Neher, Horn, Casada, H. Myers, Leonard, Moyer, Sprenkle, Brekke and Anderson.

Read first time February 11, 1991. Referred to Committee on Fisheries & Wildlife.

1           TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, 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, The continued use of high seas driftnets by Japanese,  
9 Taiwanese, and Korean fishing fleets in the North and South Pacific is  
10 killing vast numbers of sea mammals and sea birds each year; and

11           WHEREAS, These thirty mile-long driftnets are intercepting salmon  
12 species that originate in waters of the western United States and  
13 Canada further decreasing the important salmon resource of both  
14 countries; and

15           WHEREAS, Japanese, Taiwanese, and Korean squid fishing fleets of  
16 roughly 1200 vessels operate about 30,000 miles of driftnet per fishing  
17 day; and

1       WHEREAS, Squid driftnet fisheries are suspected of incidentally  
2 taking large numbers of salmon, seabirds and living mammals as  
3 evidenced by over 40,000 metric tons of illegally harvested salmon  
4 recovered through various enforcement actions; and

5       WHEREAS, These fleets are having a significant impact on the living  
6 marine resources of the North Pacific; and

7       WHEREAS, In 1987, the United States Congress passed the Driftnet  
8 Monitoring and Control Act which required that agreements be reached  
9 with nations operating high seas driftnet fleets to allow monitoring of  
10 their operation and provide enforcement; and

11       WHEREAS, Under the 1987 Driftnet Monitoring and Control Act, trade  
12 sanctions can be imposed against fish products imported from nations  
13 failing to successfully reach an agreement with the United States; and

14       WHEREAS, Many of these same vessels fish for tuna in the South  
15 Pacific where a significant conservation problem exists with albacore  
16 tuna; and

17       WHEREAS, Sixteen South Pacific Island nations have issued the  
18 Tarawa Declaration calling for an international ban on driftnet fishing  
19 in the South Pacific; and

20       WHEREAS, Steps taken so far to minimize the impact of these  
21 driftnet fisheries on living marine resources have somewhat improved  
22 monitoring, enforcement and research; however, they are only early  
23 steps and will not halt the imminent threat to the conservation and  
24 protection of these resources; and

25       WHEREAS, The states of Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho,  
26 California, and Hawaii, and the province of British Columbia have  
27 signed a proclamation proposing some immediate steps that will work  
28 toward the long-term goal of securing an international ban on driftnet  
29 fishing on the high seas;

1           NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United  
2 States Congress and President George Bush seek through all legal  
3 efforts in all available international forums an international ban on  
4 driftnet fishing on the high seas.

5           BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
6 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
7 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
8 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
9 Washington.