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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8027

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1992 Regular Session

By Senators McDonald, Snyder, Amondson, Owen, Anderson and Barr

Read first time 01/28/92. Referred to Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

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 Endangered Species Act is before the Congress for  
9 reauthorization in 1992; and

10           WHEREAS, This Memorial is designed, especially in its initial  
11 phases, to emphasize exclusively the biological needs of threatened or  
12 endangered species; and

13           WHEREAS, The lack of consideration given to the social consequences  
14 of meeting these biological needs leads to policies that focus too  
15 greatly on the animal or plant under review, and not on the humans who  
16 are asked to sacrifice on behalf of that plant or animal; and

1       WHEREAS, The Northern Spotted Owl and the Columbia River Sockeye  
2 Salmon are both in the process of receiving special protection under  
3 the Endangered Species Act, decisions that have already had far  
4 reaching consequences over much of the State of Washington; and

5       WHEREAS, The experience in Washington state with the Northern  
6 Spotted Owl has been a public policy disaster, leading to the  
7 unemployment of tens of thousands of people whose livelihoods and  
8 dreams were given far less consideration than was the bird being  
9 protected, leading in some cases to the economic devastation of entire  
10 communities; and

11       WHEREAS, Many rightly fear that those who fish, those who farm,  
12 those who own property, and those who rely on electricity are all  
13 similarly threatened with disaster by the Columbia River Sockeye Salmon  
14 listing now under way; and

15       WHEREAS, It is distinctly unfair for federal policymakers to set a  
16 national goal to save species and then ask that only certain people  
17 bear the price of that goal through their loss of employment and their  
18 private property;

19       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that during  
20 consideration of reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, the  
21 Congress and the President work to modify that Act so as to:

22       (1) Ensure that humans are given at least equal consideration to  
23 the development of plans to save listed species;

24       (2) Require a separate, true, and complete accounting of the total  
25 human, social, and economic costs of saving each listed plant or  
26 animal, to be completed by an agency of the federal government apart  
27 from that charged with protecting the species, and prepared in close  
28 cooperation with state and local governments located in the affected  
29 area; and

1           (3) Ensure that the entire nation bear the costs of saving a  
2 species deemed worthy of special protection, not just those persons or  
3 state and local governments who exist nearby.

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