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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8420**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1994 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Skratek and Sheldon

Read first time 01/17/94. Referred to Committee on Trade, Technology & Economic Development.

1       WHEREAS, The international community, under the auspices of the  
2 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, has begun  
3 to explore ways to integrate economic development and environmental  
4 quality through a strategy to promote sustainable development; and

5       WHEREAS, The United Nations and the United States government are  
6 considering actions to further agreements reached by the international  
7 community regarding sustainable development, including the  
8 establishment of a new United Nations Commission on Sustainable  
9 Development; and

10       WHEREAS, Many nations and other states, including Austria, Canada,  
11 Holland, New Zealand, Norway, Florida, Minnesota, and Vermont, are  
12 developing sustainable development plans to properly preserve and  
13 protect treasured natural resources and environmental quality while  
14 benefiting their economies; and

15       WHEREAS, Sustainable development involves promoting human well-  
16 being and meeting critical economic needs while ensuring all of the  
17 following: The environment so that future generations have resource  
18 options; managing renewable resources so that their quality and  
19 quantity are preserved or enhanced; managing the built environment in  
20 a way that promotes the efficient use of energy and other resources;  
21 sustaining the abundance of resources and preserving the capacity of

1 natural systems to absorb wastes and performing other necessary  
2 ecological functions; promoting the biodiversity of species and  
3 systems; and avoiding, remediating, or mitigating, to the greatest  
4 extent practicable, the adverse effects on the environment of use and  
5 development; and

6 WHEREAS, It is of the utmost importance that Washington's  
7 regulatory environment is favorable to the varied activities of the  
8 businesses that contribute to the well-being of the state; and

9 WHEREAS, At the same time, it is essential to ensure that people  
10 can safely breathe the air and drink the water, that children can play  
11 without the fear of exposure to toxic contaminants, that treasured  
12 natural and cultural resources are preserved and protected for all to  
13 enjoy, and that those who make their livelihood from fishing, tourism,  
14 and other natural resource-related endeavors may continue to do so; and

15 WHEREAS, The goal of making business practices and environmental  
16 quality compatible with economic vitality cannot be achieved without  
17 ensuring that environmental preservation and protection statutes and  
18 regulations are consistent and necessary to serve that public purpose;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The business community needs a stable framework of  
21 economic and environmental statutes and regulations to be able to make  
22 long-range plans and to invest in the best available technology; and

23 WHEREAS, The State of Washington is confronted with economic and  
24 social problems and our natural resources are increasingly threatened,  
25 requiring a new partnership among businesses, government agencies, and  
26 environmental groups and other organizations to develop and implement  
27 an urgently needed strategy for environmental protection, natural  
28 resources conservation, and sustained economic output; and

29 WHEREAS, There must be wise and responsible stewardship exercised  
30 to maximize both environmental quality and economic productivity in the  
31 state;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of  
33 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That the  
34 Legislature of the State of Washington encourage cooperative  
35 international, national, and state-wide efforts to promote sustainable  
36 development; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State of Washington develop and  
2 implement a sustainable development plan.

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