
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4022

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Linville, Morris, Barlean, Schual-Berke, Kessler, Conway, Lysen, O'Brien, Benson, Schmidt, Ballasiotes, Kenney and Ericksen

Read first time 01/23/2002. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

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 MICHAEL KERGIN, CANADA'S
5 AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES:

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

9 WHEREAS, A significant portion of Washington State's economy is
10 dependent upon international trade, and one of our largest trading
11 partners is Canada; and

12 WHEREAS, The bulk of Washington's trade with Canada passes through
13 the land borders between Washington State and British Columbia; and

14 WHEREAS, Washington State is a full member of the Pacific Northwest
15 Economic Region (PNWER), established in 1991 by the Washington State
16 Legislature; and

17 WHEREAS, PNWER includes our neighboring provinces to the north,
18 including British Columbia, Alberta, and the Yukon; and

19 WHEREAS, PNWER has established a Perimeter Security and Commerce
20 Task Force involving stakeholders, border users, and the expertise of
21 Washington State's software and electronics industry leaders to develop

1 and implement pilot programs to enhance security and efficiency at our
2 borders with Canada; and

3 WHEREAS, Both Canada and the United States are committed to
4 ensuring the safety of their citizens while facilitating the smooth
5 flow of legitimate trade and travel across their shared border; and

6 WHEREAS, The Perimeter Security and Commerce Task Force is tasked
7 with working closely with federal agencies to address critical issues
8 to mitigate security concerns at our borders while increasing the free
9 flow of legitimate travel and goods across our border with Canada; and

10 WHEREAS, The thirty point agreement signed by Governor Ridge,
11 Director of Homeland Security, and Deputy Prime Minister John Manley of
12 Canada on December 12, 2001, specifically encourages regional and
13 binational approaches to address these border issues;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
15 federal governments of both Canada and the United States take urgent
16 practical measures to develop a border that will ensure both security
17 and prosperity for citizens of both countries, including:

18 (1) Exploring North American perimeter clearance mechanisms that
19 increase security, reduce risk, and save money;

20 (2) Working closely with local jurisdictions to develop solutions
21 and increase cooperation in border management, including sharing of
22 vital law enforcement information;

23 (3) Implementing secure, jointly administered preclearance systems
24 and advanced technologies, such as NEXUS and Advanced Traveler
25 Information Systems, on a priority basis, to assist legitimate trade
26 and travel;

27 (4) Improving levels of staffing at border crossings where either
28 significant delays are being experienced or improved security is
29 required, or both; and

30 (5) Eliminating duplication and actively sharing information
31 wherever possible.

32 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
33 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
34 States, Michael Kergin, Canada's Ambassador to the United States, the
35 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
36 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
37 Washington.

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