
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8030

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Poulsen, Kline and Spanel

Read first time 01/16/2002. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines.

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:

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, Puget Sound is the nation's largest, most complex inland
9 sea and the Puget Sound ecosystem supports diverse flora and fauna,
10 from resident pods of orca whales to the world's largest octopi, and
11 its unique geology and large tidal range have created some of the
12 largest, most productive estuarine environments in the world; and

13 WHEREAS, Puget Sound has historically been central to the state's
14 economic prosperity, providing passage to Alaska's gold fields in the
15 1800's, providing prosperous salmon and shellfish industries in the
16 1900's, providing access to numerous ports and refineries, and
17 providing a quality of life that attracted high technology companies to
18 the region that has ranged from aerospace to the internet and biotech
19 over the past several decades, but is now facing economic uncertainty
20 related to the future of these historic industries; and

1 WHEREAS, Many of Puget Sound's best known plant and animal species
2 have experienced significant population declines in recent years,
3 including Chinook and Chum salmon, Orca whales, rockfish, and herring;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Preventing Endangered Species Act listings through
6 restoration and protection of critical habitat continues to be one of
7 the most cost-effective approaches to species management; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers Reconnaissance
9 Study identified Puget Sound as a high priority and opportunity for
10 restoration and protection of critical nearshore habitat; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers and the
12 Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the
13 participation of other state natural resource agencies, tribes, and
14 local agencies, have entered into a cost-sharing agreement to conduct
15 a general investigation to assess ecosystem restoration and protection
16 opportunities;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
18 President and the Congress recognize the importance of the Puget Sound
19 Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project as a large-scale ecosystem
20 protection and restoration project, similar in scope to the effort
21 underway in the Florida Everglades and Chesapeake Bay, and with broad
22 public support and involvement.

23 BE IT RESOLVED, That Congress provide sufficient funding through
24 the local and federal project partners to complete the assessment phase
25 and begin the construction phases of the project and that the project
26 sponsors and their partners be encouraged to report to the President
27 and to the Congress on their progress; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
29 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
30 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
31 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
32 Washington.

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