

SJM 8004 - H AMD 422

By Representative Cooper

1 Beginning on page 1, after line 7, strike all material through  
2 "Canada." on page 3, line 8 and insert the following:

3 "WHEREAS, It is the understanding of the Legislature of the State  
4 of Washington that the Province of British Columbia is considering a  
5 small-scale trial to test an augmentation technique that involves the  
6 release of grizzly bears near our common border as one component of a  
7 recovery plan designed to conserve the North Cascades grizzly bear  
8 population, which has been recognized as threatened in both British  
9 Columbia and Washington; and

10 WHEREAS, It is the understanding of the Legislature of the State of  
11 Washington that the natural range of grizzly bears can be extensive, up  
12 to three hundred square miles for females and five hundred square miles  
13 for males (as reported in the brochure entitled "North Cascades Grizzly  
14 Bear Outreach Project," which was printed and published with assistance  
15 from the following contributors: The United States Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service; the United States Forest Service; the National Park Service;  
17 the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; the Interagency  
18 Grizzly Bear Committee; the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance; and the  
19 Defenders of Wildlife); and

20 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Washington recognizes that  
21 the laws of Washington, as determined by a 1995 Senate vote of 44 to 5  
22 and a vote of the House of Representatives of 96 to 0, establishes the  
23 prohibition on the transport, transplantation, importation, or  
24 introduction of grizzly bears as the policy of the State of Washington  
25 (RCW 77.12.035); and

26 WHEREAS, The laws of the State of Washington require the Washington  
27 State Fish and Wildlife Commission to protect and encourage the natural  
28 regeneration of native grizzly bear populations in suitable areas with  
29 suitable habitat (RCW 77.12.035);

30 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the  
31 Province of British Columbia refrain from releasing grizzly bears in  
32 locations where the range of the released bear is likely to extend into

1 Washington State, unless the best available scientific information  
2 strongly indicates that the grizzly bear population in the North  
3 Cascades region of British Columbia is unlikely to recover if  
4 population augmentation is not undertaken. If the Province of British  
5 Columbia determines that the release of grizzly bears is necessary, the  
6 Legislature of the State of Washington respectfully requests that  
7 British Columbia mark all released grizzly bears, obtain DNA samples  
8 from all released grizzly bears for future identification, choose  
9 specific release locations based on an optimal combination of secure,  
10 high-quality habitat and a low risk of conflict with humans, not  
11 release grizzly bears in a manner that would be expected to result in  
12 the animals establishing home ranges entirely in Washington, and  
13 coordinate all efforts with the relevant federal and state agencies in  
14 Washington.

15 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
16 transmitted to the Honorable Gordon Campbell, Premier of the Province  
17 of British Columbia, Canada, the Honorable Joyce Murray, Minister of  
18 Land, Water and Air Protection, Province of British Columbia, Canada,  
19 and the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada."

EFFECT: Recognizes that British Columbia's grizzly bear  
augmentation program is a component of a larger recovery plan, removes  
language indicating that U.S.-based interest groups have encouraged the  
British Columbia government, and asks the British Columbia government  
to use the best available scientific information to determine if  
population augmentation is necessary.

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