

SENATE RESOLUTION

8659

By Senators Ranker, Dammeier, Litzow, Dandel, Keiser, Hasegawa, Rivers, Hobbs, Billig, Nelson, McCoy, Hargrove, Rolfes, Pedersen, Jayapal, McAuliffe, Hewitt, Hill, Becker, Padden, Hatfield, Braun, Conway, Darneille, Kohl-Welles, Pearson, Lias, Sheldon, Chase, Frockt, Roach, and Fraser

1 WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. of the Nisqually Tribe was an
2 unflinching advocate for environmental protections in Washington and
3 human rights for Native Americans, and he firmly believed in honoring
4 and preserving the earth; and

5 WHEREAS, During the Fish Wars of the 60s and 70s, Indian Tribes
6 were fighting for their right to fish in their own historical
7 territories, a right that was guaranteed to them in the 19th century
8 by the federal government; and

9 WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. was arrested over 50 times for standing
10 up for Native American treaty rights; and

11 WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr.'s unwavering actions helped lead to the
12 Boldt Decision, which established Indian Tribes in Washington as
13 comanagers of the salmon resource and reaffirmed tribal rights to
14 harvestable salmon; and

15 WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. shaped Washington State as it is known
16 today in not only advancing cooperative management over natural
17 resources between tribes and the state, but also in the fight for
18 equality for all people; and

19 WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. supported Indian Tribes in Washington
20 for over 30 years as chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries
21 Commission, which gave tribes a powerful voice to express their
22 concerns to Washington, D.C.; and

1 WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. was dignified with numerous
2 humanitarian awards for his service, including the Albert
3 Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, Washington State
4 Environmental Excellence Award, and American Indian
5 Distinguished Service Award, along with countless others; and

6 WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. passed away on May 5, 2014, at the
7 age of 83, and he was on that day, as on most days, on his way
8 to a meeting about fish and tribal treaty rights; and

9 WHEREAS, Washington must continue to remember Billy Frank
10 Jr.'s legacy, his passion, and the strides he made to defend and
11 protect his tribe, his country, and our earth; and

12 WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. stressed the importance of both the
13 spiritual and cultural ties of salmon to indigenous people
14 throughout Washington and the nation; and

15 WHEREAS, Through his lifetime of kinship with the natural
16 world, Billy Frank Jr. helped create a healthy environment that
17 can sustain salmon, achieved change, and brought diverse and
18 divergent communities together around shared desires through
19 nonviolent means; and

20 WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. spent his entire life bringing
21 together those with diverse ideologies and backgrounds around a
22 shared passion for sustainability;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
24 Senate honor Billy Frank Jr. and the impact he had on tribes,
25 the state, the nation, and the earth, and now let him inspire
26 all of us to carry on his legacy.

27 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
28 do hereby certify that this is a true and
29 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8659,
30 adopted by the Senate
31 April 23, 2015

32 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
33 Secretary of the Senate