

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8002

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Metcalf, Conner and Roach.

Read first time January 17, 1991. Referred to Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 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 THE COMMANDANT OF THE
5 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, AND TO
6 THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE:

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

10 WHEREAS, West coast sport and commercial fisheries are resources of
11 great economic and recreational importance; and

12 WHEREAS, These resources are threatened by the introduction of
13 aquatic organisms from foreign ports brought in by means of the ballast
14 water of freighters and tankers; and

1 WHEREAS, In recent years several planktonic and benthic organisms
2 have arrived and become established, causing fishery problems in
3 California; and

4 WHEREAS, Exotic eel grass brought in through ballast water has
5 created problems in Humboldt Bay and estuaries along the Pacific Coast;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Similar introductions may occur at other estuarine and
8 coastal ports along the west coast in the same manner as has already
9 occurred in the Great Lakes, with consequent harm to Great Lakes
10 fisheries;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
12 States Coast Guard adopt regulations prohibiting the dumping of ballast
13 water originating in foreign ports in all waters of the United States
14 and in the waters under their jurisdictions within the states. Any
15 such ballast water should be dumped at sea and exchanged for open ocean
16 water prior to entry into waters of the state.

17 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
18 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
19 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
21 Washington, the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, the
22 Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Commerce.