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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8031

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senators Snyder and Conner

Read first time 02/07/92. 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:

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, The state of Washington has a strong tradition of  
9 environmental concern and a commitment to sound planning and management  
10 of our coastal area as evidenced by the passage by its citizens of the  
11 Shoreline Management Act in 1971; and

12 WHEREAS, The state's Coastal Zone Management program was the first  
13 in the nation to be approved by the United States Department of  
14 Commerce as a further commitment to the partnership of local, state,  
15 and federal governments in managing our coastal areas; and

1           WHEREAS, The 1982 Coastal Barrier Resources Act prohibits federal  
2 expenditures on designated undeveloped low-lying shoreline features  
3 such as sand spits and beaches that protect a bay, lagoon, or marsh  
4 from the open ocean. The Act originally applied to the Atlantic and  
5 Gulf coasts for the purposes of:

6           (1) Reducing losses of lives and property due to storms and  
7 flooding;

8           (2) Protecting the natural environment; and

9           (3) Reducing wasteful federal expenditures; and

10          WHEREAS, The Act was amended by Congress in 1990 to include Pacific  
11 coast sites, including Washington state; and

12          WHEREAS, The Department of the Interior, through the United States  
13 Fish and Wildlife Service, now has identified one hundred three  
14 potential sites on Washington's ocean coast and in Puget Sound for  
15 inclusion in the program; and

16          WHEREAS, The Senate and the House of Representatives of the state  
17 of Washington oppose the inclusion of these sites for the following  
18 reasons:

19           (1) The conditions that exist on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts do  
20 not exist here;

21           (2) The sites are poorly identified and in many cases are too small  
22 or already developed;

23           (3) There has been little opportunity for public education, comment  
24 or review on the proposed sites;

25           (4) Many of the proposed sites are already protected as state parks  
26 and wildlife refuges;

27           (5) The state Shorelines Management Act provides protection and  
28 wise use of these areas under an effective local and state program;

1 (6) Major financial impacts will occur on those projects already  
2 planned but not yet developed and where removal of federal funds would  
3 make them uneconomical;

4 (7) There has been little consultation with Indian tribes or  
5 nations and local and state officials in identifying the potential  
6 sites; and

7 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
8 neither accept recommendations from the Department of the Interior for  
9 sites in this state nor enact legislation to bring them into the  
10 Coastal Barriers Resources System.

11 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
12 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
13 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
14 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
15 Washington.