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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4429

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives King, Anderson, Fuhrman, Orr, Jacobsen, Rayburn, Lisk, Veloria, Schmidt, Heavey, Ballard, Wineberry, Sheldon, Leonard, Pruitt, Jones and J. Kohl

Read first time 01/24/94. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 WHEREAS, The territory that is now the state of Washington was  
2 occupied from time immemorial by many native peoples who carried out  
3 their customs, governance, and intertribal relations for the benefit of  
4 their communities; and

5 WHEREAS, The federal government entered into treaties with most of  
6 the native communities, tribes, and bands between 1853 and 1856. Those  
7 treaties recognized the rights of these communities, and established  
8 the reservations in existence today; and

9 WHEREAS, The treaties paved the way for the Washington territory to  
10 become the state of Washington; and

11 WHEREAS, The state of Washington has twenty-six federally  
12 recognized tribes located within its boundaries; and

13 WHEREAS, Policies concerning the relationship between the state and  
14 the federally recognized tribes have been set forth in the United  
15 States and Washington Constitutions, the Organic Act of 1853, and the  
16 Enabling Act of 1889; and

17 WHEREAS, Under Governor Gardner, the tribes and the state entered  
18 into a new era of cooperation, accomplished with the signing of the  
19 Centennial Accord in 1989, for the purpose of coordinating on a wide  
20 range of issues; and

1       WHEREAS, The Centennial Accord did not include the Washington  
2 Legislature; and

3       WHEREAS, The Legislature desires to understand tribal government  
4 and to develop a mutually respectful working relationship with the  
5 federally recognized tribes;

6       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of  
7 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That a joint select  
8 committee on Indian Affairs be established to study the relationship  
9 between the state and the tribes, to mutually educate legislators and  
10 tribal governments on the workings of their respective governments, to  
11 examine ways of improving the working relationship between the  
12 Legislature and the tribes, to examine the potential role of the  
13 Legislature in oversight of the Centennial Accord, and to make policy  
14 recommendations accordingly; and

15       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee consist of ten members,  
16 five members each selected by the President of the Senate and the  
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives, with three of each house  
18 selected from the majority party; and

19       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee report its findings and  
20 recommendations to the Legislature at the regular session held in 1996.

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