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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8047

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Sheahan, Hewitt, Honeyford, Swecker, Hale, Murray and T. Sheldon

Read first time 01/28/2004. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Trade.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND 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 SECRETARY OF THE  
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE:

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

9 WHEREAS, Large areas of not only the interior of Washington State  
10 but of all northern tier and many Midwest states utilize the river  
11 route provided by the Columbia and Snake Rivers to transport  
12 commodities and goods by ship and barge; and

13 WHEREAS, Water-borne transportation is the most efficient use of  
14 fossil fuels per ton-mile for shipment of bulk commodities and goods;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, This waterway's inland terminus at Lewiston, Idaho is  
17 located more than four hundred miles upriver from the Pacific Ocean;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The hauling capacity of a fully loaded barge tow is

1 equivalent to over five hundred thirty trucks, thereby relieving the  
2 roads of congestion and reduces the need for additional highway  
3 construction and costly maintenance; and

4 WHEREAS, Because sediments in the Snake River segment of this  
5 navigation system and its accompanying berthing areas continue to build  
6 up, barges are no longer able to be fully loaded, resulting in higher  
7 use of fossil fuels, higher expense to shippers, more road congestion  
8 and wear, and a decrease in the competitiveness of our farms and our  
9 country's economy; and

10 WHEREAS, Salmon runs have increased significantly in recent years,  
11 and have allowed for increased harvest by commercial, sports, and  
12 tribal fishers; and

13 WHEREAS, Plans to maintain this essential waterway have been  
14 stymied by fear of lawsuits despite approval of the strategy by the  
15 National Marine Fisheries Service;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
17 federal government take all necessary actions to ensure that the United  
18 States Army Corps of Engineers will expeditiously implement the plan to  
19 maintain the navigation channel and loading docks on the lower Snake  
20 River to ensure that the use of barges is maintained and that they can  
21 again be fully loaded.

22 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
23 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
24 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Defense, the  
25 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
26 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
27 Washington.

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