By Senators Spanel, Haugen, Stevens and Brandland

WHEREAS, Every April, the tulips are in bloom, celebrating the beginning of spring; and WHEREAS, The beautiful Skagit Valley is the Northwest's tulip capital and the No. 1 producer of tulip bulbs in North America; and

WHEREAS, The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival kicks off the festival season in Northwest Washington; and

WHEREAS, Nearly half a million people visited the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival last year, participating in the joy and excitement of the event and contributing to the economy of the Skagit Valley; and

WHEREAS, This year's 21st annual festival will run from April 1 through 13, focusing on the communities of Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, Anacortes, La Conner, Mount Vernon, Concrete, and Conway; and

WHEREAS, Visitors will be greeted by more than 750 acres of tulips reflecting all the vibrant colors of the rainbow, by the fullness of life in the valley, and by its wonderful people; and

WHEREAS, This year's Tulip Festival ambassadors will ably and personably perform their responsibilities as representatives of this festival; and

WHEREAS, Highlights of the event include the Kiwanis Club's 16th Annual Salmon Barbeque, the 24th Annual Tulip Pedal bike ride, the Anacortes Quilt Walk, the Downtown Mount Vernon Street Fair, and much more;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate salute all the communities of the Skagit Valley, their Chambers of Commerce, the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival Ambassadors, and the Tulip Festival Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate commend the community leaders and corporate sponsors for the success of this important event and encourage citizens from across Washington to take the time to enjoy this spectacular display; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Skagit Valley Tulip Festival Executive Director, Cindy Verge, and the Tulip Festival Ambassadors.

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr., Secretary of the Senate, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution 8734, adopted by the Senate March 8, 2004

MILTON H. DOUMIT, JR. Secretary of the Senate