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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8019**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2005 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Shin, Rasmussen, Rockefeller, Weinstein, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Pridemore, Berkey, Doumit, McAuliffe, Franklin, Keiser, Regala, Fairley, Prentice, Jacobsen, Fraser and Haugen

Read first time 02/21/2005. Referred to Committee on International Trade & Economic Development.

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 UNITED STATES TRADE  
5 REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR ROBERT B. ZOELLICK:

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, The trade liberalization efforts of the early 1990s and  
10 trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and  
11 the World Trade Organization Uruguay Round agreements have increased  
12 the role of state policymakers in international trade decisions; and

13 WHEREAS, Trade liberalization has transformed the historical state-  
14 federal division of power and taxed state agency resources in dealing  
15 with the world marketplace; and

16 WHEREAS, Recent trade agreements have proceeded beyond discussion  
17 of tariffs and quotas and now address government regulation, taxation,  
18 procurement, and economic development policies that are implemented at  
19 state and local levels; and

1       WHEREAS, States often lack a clearly defined institutional trade  
2 policy structure, making it difficult to handle requests from trading  
3 partners and federal agencies and to articulate a unified state stance  
4 on trade issues; and

5       WHEREAS, International lawsuits may be brought against states and  
6 governments found to be in violation of trade agreements; and

7       WHEREAS, There is no clear precedent or structure for federal-state  
8 trade policy consultations; and

9       WHEREAS, Many state and local executive, legislative, and judicial  
10 branch officials have voiced the need for an informed, nonpartisan  
11 trade policy dialogue on a national level; and

12       WHEREAS, Federal-state communication and cooperation in the  
13 implementation of trade agreements is needed now more than ever before;  
14 and

15       WHEREAS, In August 2004, the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory  
16 Committee, a state-appointed advisory committee to the United States  
17 Trade Representative, recommended that a Federal-State International  
18 Trade Policy Commission would be an ideal resource for objective trade  
19 policy analysis and would foster communication among federal and state  
20 trade policy officials; and

21       WHEREAS, The creation of a federal-state trade policy  
22 infrastructure would assist states in understanding the scope of  
23 federal trade efforts and would assist federal agencies in  
24 understanding the various state trade processes;

25       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the  
26 United States Trade Representative create a Federal-State International  
27 Trade Policy Commission with membership to be drawn from federal and  
28 state trade policy officials.

29       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
30 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
31 States, the Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick, United States Trade  
32 Representative, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
33 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
34 State of Washington.

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