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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8027

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senator Morton

Read first time . Referred to .

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:

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, Seals, sea lions, pikeminnow, bull trout, common merganser  
9 ducks, Caspian terns, double-crested cormorants, ring-billed gulls, and  
10 California gulls are active predators upon anadromous fish such as  
11 salmon and steelhead trout; and

12 WHEREAS, Anadromous fish populations are significantly reduced in  
13 numbers throughout Washington state, and some stocks have been listed  
14 as threatened or endangered species; and

15 WHEREAS, Many more anadromous fish stocks are likely to be listed  
16 as threatened or endangered; and

17 WHEREAS, In order to allow certain salmon and steelhead populations  
18 to recover and be sustained at viable levels, it will be necessary to  
19 have more flexibility to manage known predators in identifiable areas

1 where they cause unacceptable mortality levels in specific fish runs;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, While amendments to the federal Marine Mammal Protection  
4 Act allow for lethal removal of problem seals or sea lions, the process  
5 established to do so is cumbersome and time-consuming and will do  
6 little to protect the fish; and

7 WHEREAS, Other predators such as pikeminnow, bull trout, common  
8 merganser ducks, Caspian terns, double-crested cormorants, ring-billed  
9 gulls, and California gulls continue their predation of anadromous  
10 fish;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
12 allow for a more common-sense approach to managing predators of  
13 anadromous fish stocks, especially those species listed as threatened  
14 or endangered, and that the approach incorporate reasonable, balanced,  
15 and prudent controls of such predators in Washington state, including  
16 the use of less cumbersome lethal and nonlethal removal options when  
17 and where necessary. In asking for this relief, it is not our  
18 intention to decimate or eliminate anadromous fish predators but to  
19 protect anadromous fish.

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

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