

SENATE RESOLUTION

8697

By Senators Brown, Schoesler, Hewitt, and Fraser

1           WHEREAS, Senator Max Benitz served a total of twenty-one years as  
2 a Washington state legislator for the 8th District, serving first in  
3 the House of Representatives from 1968 to 1972, then serving in the  
4 Senate from 1974 to 1986; and

5           WHEREAS, Senator Benitz was known throughout the state for his  
6 immense knowledge of agriculture, touring Russia and the Far East to  
7 exhibit his expertise in farming, where he was featured in a film by  
8 Walter Cronkite comparing food production techniques between the two  
9 regions; and

10           WHEREAS, Senator Benitz was elected President of the National  
11 Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and awarded the special privilege of  
12 sitting on the National Farm Bureau Board of Directors for two  
13 consecutive terms; and

14           WHEREAS, Senator Benitz fervently worked to stimulate the wine  
15 industry, passing laws such as the 1981 Family Wine Act, helping  
16 incentivize small farms to experiment with wine making, the 1987  
17 Washington Wine Commission bill, making wine in Washington not only  
18 of national importance but of international importance as well; and

19           WHEREAS, Senator Benitz, known as "Mr. Energy," adamantly  
20 supported the promotion of energy in Washington, firmly advocating  
21 for the creation of a comprehensive national energy policy, and  
22 working alongside engineers and nuclear scientists at Hanford; and

1           WHEREAS, Senator Benitz was renowned for his pro-nuclear  
2 work, receiving special assignments on the Joint Select  
3 Committee for Water Resource Policy as well as on the Hazardous  
4 Material Planning Committee; and

5           WHEREAS, Senator Benitz sat on the Committee on Education,  
6 and was heavily involved with bringing Washington State  
7 University to the Tri-Cities area; and

8           WHEREAS, Senator Benitz loved his family, which included his  
9 wife Marie, his five children, eleven grandchildren, and two  
10 great grandchildren at the time of his death in 1990; and

11           WHEREAS, Senator Benitz was known not only as a beloved  
12 family man, but also as a statesman in every meaning of the  
13 word, well-liked on both sides of the aisle based on his keen  
14 ability to listen to his constituents, use his immense knowledge  
15 to make informed decisions, and act on behalf of the state that  
16 he adored so much;

17           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
18 Senate recognize Senator Benitz for his valiant work in the  
19 areas of agriculture, viticulture, education, and energy; and

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
21 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to  
22 Senator Benitz's family and to the Prosser community.

23 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,  
24 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
25 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8697,  
26 adopted by the Senate  
27 January 27, 2016

28 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
29 Secretary of the Senate