

SENATE RESOLUTION

8639

By Senators Braun, Billig, Brown, Carlyle, Cleveland, Conway, Das, Dhingra, Dozier, Fortunato, Frockt, Gildon, Hasegawa, Hawkins, Holy, Honeyford, Hunt, Keiser, King, Kuderer, Lias, Lovelett, Lovick, McCune, Mullet, Muzzall, Nguyen, Nobles, Padden, Pedersen, Randall, Rivers, Robinson, Rolfes, Saldaña, Salomon, Schoesler, Sefzik, Sheldon, Short, Stanford, Trudeau, Van De Wege, Wagoner, Warnick, Wellman, C. Wilson, J. Wilson, and L. Wilson

1           WHEREAS, Senator Douglas J. Ericksen was a Whatcom County native  
2 who spent the last 22 years serving his community and the citizens of  
3 Washington State in the state legislature; and

4           WHEREAS, He earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University,  
5 where he played collegiate baseball and football; and

6           WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen was a 1995 graduate of Western  
7 Washington University, where he earned a master's degree in political  
8 science and environmental policy; and

9           WHEREAS, While still in college, Senator Ericksen began his  
10 legislative career working in the office of Senator Ann Anderson,  
11 whose seat he later held; and

12           WHEREAS, In 1998, Senator Ericksen ran for the state House of  
13 Representatives from Whatcom County's 42nd Legislative District, and  
14 held the position for six terms; and

15           WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen then moved to the Senate where he  
16 chaired the Senate Energy, Environment and Telecommunications  
17 Committee from 2013 to 2017, and later continued serving as ranking  
18 Republican member; and

19           WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen was a steadfast advocate for preserving  
20 jobs, including jobs at manufacturing facilities such as Alcoa's  
21 Intalco Works, always taking up the cause of workers and families in  
22 his district; and

1       WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen played an integral role in every  
2 legislative debate over energy policy, emphasizing practical  
3 cost-effective approaches that would give electricity ratepayers  
4 and purchasers of motor fuel the biggest bang for the buck; and

5       WHEREAS, Fearless in the face of opposition, Senator  
6 Ericksen was one of the Legislature's strongest voices for  
7 fiscal responsibility, limiting government overreach, supporting  
8 agriculture, preservation of Washington's clean and affordable  
9 energy advantage, jobs and industrial development outside the  
10 Central Puget Sound metropolitan area, and pragmatic and  
11 balanced solutions to environmental challenges; and

12       WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen sponsored legislation to create  
13 the state Environmental Legacy Stewardship Account and  
14 designated cleanup projects as first priority for funding,  
15 preventing a tax increase on fuel and other products, and  
16 speeding up cleanup projects across the state, including the  
17 revitalization of former industrial properties on the Bellingham  
18 Bay waterfront; and

19       WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen was also instrumental in securing  
20 passage of legislation that balanced safety concerns with the  
21 practical need to get tanker cars to the refineries of Northwest  
22 Washington; and

23       WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen enjoyed introducing creative  
24 bills, proposing the first bill to offer a mechanism to reduce  
25 carbon ever to pass either chamber of the Washington State  
26 Legislature; and

27       WHEREAS, When state incentives for home and community solar  
28 installations were due to expire, Senator Ericksen successfully  
29 extended the program and phased it out smoothly, a move that  
30 spurred the installation of thousands of new solar systems and  
31 created over a thousand jobs before sunseting, according to  
32 legislative auditors; and

33       WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen worked hard to support public-  
34 private partnerships to develop new fish hatcheries on Puget  
35 Sound to provide salmon for fishermen and feedstock for  
36 Washington's resident orca whales; and

37       WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen was fond of introducing  
38 legislation to make a point, and one such instance was a

1 proposal to restore Seattle waterways and other Seattle water  
2 projects to a pristine wilderness state; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen was a champion for protecting the  
4 rights of the individual and the freedoms guaranteed by the  
5 state and federal Constitutions; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen deeply respected and cherished the  
7 privilege of representing his constituents in the state  
8 legislature; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Ericksen passed away on December 17, 2021,  
10 at age 52, but his legacy lives on; and

11 WHEREAS, He is survived by his wife Tasha, and two  
12 daughters, Elsa and Addi, his mother Bettelou, brothers David  
13 and Donald, and many loving friends and members of his extended  
14 family;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Legislature honor  
16 Senator Doug Ericksen and further his dedication and service to  
17 the citizens of Washington State.

18 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,  
19 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
20 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8639,  
21 adopted by the Senate  
22 January 28, 2022

23 SARAH BANNISTER  
24 Secretary of the Senate