

SENATE RESOLUTION

8696

By Senators Shewmake, Short, and Hasegawa

1 WHEREAS, Since the foundation of our state, we have shared strong
2 economic, political, and cultural ties to our Canadian neighbors in
3 British Columbia; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout our history, Washingtonians have traveled to
5 visit our family members, friends, and colleagues living across our
6 northern border, while they have visited us in return; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States and Canada share the longest peaceful
8 border in history with 166 years of peace along 5,525 miles of
9 border; and

10 WHEREAS, With honor, respect, and acknowledgment, Canada and the
11 United States share a deep and enduring connection with the First
12 Nations and Tribes — the first peoples of both nations — who have
13 upheld agreements with federal governments in recognition of their
14 sovereignty and inherent rights; whose bloodlines, culture, and
15 traditional laws have sustained these lands since time immemorial;
16 and who continue to be essential partners and leaders in economic
17 sustainability within their respective countries and across borders;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Residents of Point Roberts, Washington, a pene-exclave
20 community, must cross the United States-Canadian border twice to get
21 to school, the doctor's office, and other services, relying heavily
22 on smooth border operations; and

1 WHEREAS, British Columbians and Washingtonians have served
2 their countries valiantly together in two world wars and many
3 other conflicts; and

4 WHEREAS, The abundant natural resources and uniquely
5 beautiful landscapes of the Pacific Northwest are core to the
6 identities of those living in this region, regardless of
7 national origin; and

8 WHEREAS, The Senate recognizes the cultural ties and
9 contributions of Canada to music and media, without which we
10 would not have Joni Mitchell, Alanis Morissette, Avril Levine,
11 Harvest Moon, If I Had a Million Dollars, Anne with an "E",
12 Shane and Ilya, Call Me Maybe, or Wayne's World; and

13 WHEREAS, The Senate acknowledges the shared economic
14 prosperity from integrated supply chains and thriving maritime,
15 technology, manufacturing, farming, and forestry industries that
16 span across political borders; and

17 WHEREAS, Washington and British Columbia are permanently
18 linked by the Salish Sea, whose waters are unconstrained by
19 national borders; and

20 WHEREAS, The collaboration and flow of ideas between
21 Washington State and British Columbia is essential for the
22 shared efforts toward marine habitat restoration, natural
23 disaster mitigation, advancing clean technologies, and exploring
24 solutions to regional challenges; and

25 WHEREAS, Earlier this month, members of the Washington State
26 Legislature signed the charter for the British Columbia-
27 Washington Interparliamentary Agreement to promote dialogue
28 between legislators, explore solutions to common challenges,
29 address cross-border constituency matters, and engage in
30 discussions on areas of mutual interest and accomplishment; and

31 WHEREAS, The nearly eight billion dollars brought in from
32 exports to Canada every year contributes to our resilient
33 economy, and in turn our consumers benefit from the products we
34 import from the north; and

35 WHEREAS, Washingtonians rely on the electrical power shared
36 over our northern border, as well as the oil refined here in
37 Washington and imported from British Columbia; and

1 WHEREAS, Our regions share common environmental challenges
2 and seek to exchange knowledge in areas of ecological
3 stewardship and the process of energy modernization and
4 adaptation; and

5 WHEREAS, Quebec's unique leadership in creating the largest
6 North America carbon market informs Washington's approach to
7 carbon mitigation as we continue our strong partnership and
8 collaborative environmental engagement; and

9 WHEREAS, Border communities particularly benefit from the
10 Canadian tourists visiting our state to visit our restaurants,
11 entertainment, grocery, and retail stores; and

12 WHEREAS, Peace Arch Park in Blaine, which describes our two
13 nations as "children of a common mother," provided a place for
14 loved ones separated by the border closure during the COVID-19
15 pandemic to reunite and visit their friends and family; and

16 WHEREAS, Our Canadian neighbors provide aid to our country
17 in times of crisis, lending supplies and volunteers during the
18 Nooksack floods, sending water bombers to combat wildfires, and
19 allowing stranded passengers and planes to take refuge on
20 September 11, 2001;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize
22 the immeasurable value of our interconnected relationship with
23 Canada and its profound impact on the people of Washington
24 State.

25 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
26 do hereby certify that this is a true and
27 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8696,
28 adopted by the Senate
29 February 25, 2026

30 SARAH BANNISTER
31 Secretary of the Senate