

2 EHJM 4003 - S COMM AMD  
3 By Committee on Energy & Utilities

4 ADOPTED AS AMENDED (by s3182.1) 4/8/93

5 Beginning on page 1, after line 9, strike all material through  
6 "Washington." on page 3, line 2, and insert the following:

7 "WHEREAS, As many as fifteen million wild salmon used to return  
8 annually to the Columbia-Snake River system; and

9 WHEREAS, Currently only about two million five hundred thousand  
10 salmon return each year; and

11 WHEREAS, Wild salmon are important to the environmental and  
12 cultural heritage of the citizens of the State of Washington; and

13 WHEREAS, Certain species of salmon have been designated as  
14 threatened or endangered under the authority granted by the Federal  
15 Endangered Species Act; and

16 WHEREAS, Fisheries biologists from a variety of disciplines have  
17 identified a range of causes of mortality at each stage of the salmon's  
18 life cycle, and have agreed that recovery measures must address causes  
19 of mortality at each stage of the life cycle; and

20 WHEREAS, Your Memorialists recognize that successful implementation  
21 of the comprehensive regional salmon recovery plan will require  
22 sacrifices by all economic stakeholders and substantial investment by  
23 the citizens of the region; and

24 WHEREAS, The Columbia-Snake River system provides substantial  
25 economic benefits to the citizens of the State of Washington in the  
26 areas of agriculture, navigation, fisheries, energy, industry,  
27 recreation, and flood control; and

28 WHEREAS, Stream flow augmentation is generally believed to provide  
29 biological benefits to migrating salmon, but there is continued  
30 uncertainty regarding the biological benefits to salmon of flow  
31 augmentation achieved by drawing down reservoir levels below minimum  
32 operating pool; and

33 WHEREAS, Drawdowns below minimum operating pool on the Snake River,  
34 conducted in March 1992 for the limited purpose of evaluating impact to  
35 physical structures and facilities, caused the loss of resident fish,  
36 altered wildlife habitat, and increased risks of predation, disrupted

1 navigation, and caused physical property damage to public and private  
2 facilities; and

3 WHEREAS, Salmon migrating upstream to spawn are unable to pass  
4 through fish ladder systems when reservoirs are maintained at levels  
5 substantially below minimum operating pool; and

6 WHEREAS, Drawing down Columbia-Snake River system reservoirs below  
7 minimum operating pool for extended periods causes substantial economic  
8 impacts, including increased costs for Washington's agricultural  
9 producers and shippers which jeopardize their ability to compete in  
10 global markets; and

11 WHEREAS, Maintaining reservoir levels at minimum operating pool,  
12 with modifications to existing irrigation pump stations on the John Day  
13 reservoir, enables the river system to support critical economic  
14 activity;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
16 officials charged with developing the regional salmon recovery plan  
17 carefully consider the biological needs of endangered salmon species,  
18 and before drawing down reservoirs below minimum operating pool as part  
19 of the regional salmon recovery plan, give the strongest consideration  
20 to the economic impact of such drawdowns on the citizens of the State  
21 of Washington; and

22 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
23 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United  
24 States, the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the  
25 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the President of the  
26 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
27 each member of Congress from the State of Washington."

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