

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

4 ADOPTED w/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 salmon used to return annually
8 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 wild 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 as many as
36 thirty thousand resident fish, exposed shoreline wildlife to predation,

1 disrupted navigation, and caused substantial physical property damage
2 to public and private 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 below minimum operating pool; and

6 WHEREAS, Drawing down Columbia-Snake River system reservoirs below
7 minimum operating pool for extended periods will cause substantial
8 economic impacts, including increased costs for Washington's
9 agricultural producers and shippers which may jeopardize their ability
10 to compete in 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
19 part of the regional salmon recovery plan, give the strongest
20 consideration to the economic impact of such drawdowns on the citizens
21 of the State of Washington.

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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