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**ENGROSSED HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4003**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1993 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Mastin, Rayburn, Lisk, Sheahan, Grant, Bray, Ludwig, Chandler, Schoesler, Ballard, Foreman, Roland, Edmondson, Lemmon and Hansen

Read first time 01/25/93. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development.

1           TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
5 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE  
6 ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS:

7           We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
9 represent and petition as follows:

10          WHEREAS, The Columbia-Snake River system provides habitat for  
11 approximately two million five hundred thousand salmon, which are  
12 important to the environmental and cultural heritage of the citizens of  
13 the State of Washington; and

14          WHEREAS, The Columbia-Snake River system provides substantial  
15 economic benefits to the citizens of the State of Washington in the  
16 areas of agriculture, navigation, fisheries, energy, industry,  
17 recreation, and flood control; and

18          WHEREAS, Certain species of salmon have been designated as  
19 threatened or endangered under the authority granted by the Endangered  
20 Species Act; and

1       WHEREAS, Your Memorialists are committed to protecting threatened  
2 and endangered salmon species and to preserving and enhancing existing  
3 salmon runs by means of the most biologically effective, least costly  
4 alternative; and

5       WHEREAS, Fisheries biologists from a variety of disciplines have  
6 identified a range of causes of mortality at each stage of the salmon's  
7 life cycle, and have agreed that recovery measures must address causes  
8 of mortality at each stage of the life cycle; and

9       WHEREAS, There is continued uncertainty regarding the extent of  
10 biological benefits to salmon of some proposed solutions, including  
11 increased stream velocity; and

12       WHEREAS, Drawdowns below minimum operating pool on the Snake River,  
13 demonstrated by the test drawdowns conducted in March 1992 for the  
14 limited purpose of evaluating impacts to physical structures and  
15 facilities, provided limited migration benefits for the salmon, caused  
16 the loss of as many as thirty thousand resident fish, disrupted  
17 navigation, and caused substantial physical property damage to public  
18 and private facilities; and

19       WHEREAS, Maintaining reservoir levels at minimum operating pool  
20 and, in the absence of modifications to existing irrigation pump  
21 stations, at minimum irrigation pool on the John Day reservoir, enables  
22 the river system to support critical economic activity;

23       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that any future  
24 drawdowns on the Columbia-Snake River system be limited to minimum  
25 operating pool on the Snake River projects or minimum operating pool  
26 coupled with irrigation pump modification on the John Day reservoir  
27 unless, based on and supported by the best available scientific  
28 knowledge, further drawdowns are determined to be a biologically  
29 prudent alternative and, where equally effective alternative means of  
30 achieving the same sound biological objective exist, are the  
31 alternative with the minimum economic cost; and

32       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
33 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United  
34 States, the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the  
35 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and to the President  
36 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
2 Washington.

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