
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4003

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 a great uncertainty regarding the biological
10 benefits to salmon of some of the proposed solutions, including
11 increased stream velocity; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Maintaining reservoir levels at minimum operating pool,
19 and minimum irrigation pool on the John Day reservoir, enables the
20 river system to support critical economic activity;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that further
22 drawdowns on the Columbia-Snake River system be limited to minimum
23 operating pool or minimum irrigation pool on the John Day reservoir;
24 and

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

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