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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4014

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State of Washington

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By Representatives R. Johnson, Pruitt, Linville, Kremen, Valle, Johanson and Anderson

Read first time 02/15/93. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

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:

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

8 WHEREAS, Wise stewardship of the Nation's lands and biological  
9 resources can provide many benefits, including desirable places for our  
10 citizens to live, work, and recreate, cleansing of our airs and waters,  
11 opportunities to discover new and valuable medicines and other  
12 products, beneficial areas with diverse native plants and animals,  
13 control of flooding, and a rich natural heritage to pass on to future  
14 generations; and

15 WHEREAS, Wise stewardship of the Nation's natural resources will  
16 benefit all Americans and future generations; and

17 WHEREAS, Human prosperity and opportunity are based on a healthy  
18 and productive environment; and

19 WHEREAS, The Nation, individual States, and sovereign Tribes have  
20 had a number of statutes and programs intended to prevent plants and

1 animals from becoming so depleted that they require protection under  
2 the Endangered Species Act; and

3 WHEREAS, The Congress intends to revisit the Endangered Species Act  
4 and reauthorize the Act's funding ceiling; and

5 WHEREAS, Measures to protect threatened and endangered species may  
6 fall disproportionately upon individual citizens or communities; and

7 WHEREAS, Conservation of threatened and endangered plants and  
8 animals may cause severe disruption of local communities and economies;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Delays, uncertainty, inconsistency, and conflicting  
11 programs by federal agencies in their implementation of the Endangered  
12 species Act causes great hardship to businesses and to their employees;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The number of plant and animal species in the United  
15 States protected under the Endangered Species Act could approach four  
16 thousand, many of which are found in Washington state; and

17 WHEREAS, Wildlife and environmental management experts have  
18 recognized that it is more successful and less costly to manage for  
19 biological communities and multiple species before they become  
20 threatened rather than focus on emergency cases one at a time; and

21 WHEREAS, The Endangered Species Act as currently promulgated has  
22 caused great disruptions in both the economy of the Pacific Northwest  
23 and in the lives of many Washington citizens, without great benefit to  
24 the species the Act is intended to protect;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
26 President and the Congress of the United States:

27 Enact and implement comprehensive natural resource management  
28 programs to provide a balance between protecting plant and animal  
29 species and their habitats and providing for the more immediate well-  
30 being and economic benefit of our citizens and communities;

31 Adequately fund and implement existing programs designed to prevent  
32 plants and animals from requiring protection under the Endangered  
33 Species Act;

34 Require federal agencies responsible for endangered species  
35 recovery to establish priorities to benefit multiple listed and  
36 candidate species, to ensure that recovery programs have a high  
37 probability of success, and to emphasize recovery programs that are  
38 cost-effective;

1 Encourage the management and recovery of entire ecosystems and  
2 ecological communities rather than focus exclusively on individual  
3 crises;

4 Require federal agencies responsible for endangered species  
5 recovery to observe strict timelines in order to avoid delays and  
6 minimize uncertainty among citizens affected by federal actions;

7 Require federal agencies responsible for endangered species  
8 recovery to identify successful recovery programs and de-list formerly  
9 endangered species in a responsible period of time;

10 Require consultation and close coordination with State and Tribal  
11 governments in considering the listing of candidate species and in the  
12 design of conservation and recovery plans;

13 Require federal agencies responsible for endangered species  
14 recovery to coordinate their activities to reduce redundant and  
15 conflicting programs;

16 Provide private property owners with financial incentives to  
17 protect and conserve our nation's biological resources, including  
18 threatened or endangered species found on their lands; and

19 Establish a financial assistance program to help private property  
20 owners to implement habitat conservation plans for listed species found  
21 on their lands.

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 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
25 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
26 Washington.

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