
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8002

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By Senators Talmadge, Owen and Fraser

Read first time 01/15/93. Referred to Committee on Ecology & 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, AND TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE
5 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:

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

9 WHEREAS, The United States national park service was created to
10 manage national parks "to conserve the scenery and the natural and
11 historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the
12 enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave
13 them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations"; and

14 WHEREAS, The national park system received two hundred sixty-eight
15 million visitors in 1991 and is expected to receive as many as five
16 hundred million visitors a year by the year 2010; and

17 WHEREAS, Tourism is an important component of the Washington state
18 economy and is sustained, in part, by three major national parks--Mt.
19 Rainier, Olympic, and North Cascades--which protect unique scenic and
20 ecological resources; and

1 WHEREAS, National park resources are often threatened by activities
2 and environmental problems, including air and water pollution, that
3 take place outside park boundaries; and

4 WHEREAS, The national park service has a backlog of more than four
5 thousand seven hundred resource protection programs, costing about four
6 hundred seventy-seven million dollars, that are necessary to prevent or
7 mitigate known threats to parks; and

8 WHEREAS, Only ten percent of the national park service's fiscal
9 year 1992 operating budget is allocated to natural resource management
10 programs and park service officials have stated that natural resource
11 funding would need to be two to three times the current level to
12 adequately meet annual natural resource management needs; and

13 WHEREAS, The office of inspector general within the department of
14 interior found that the national park service does not have a complete
15 natural resources inventory to identify potential threats to park
16 resources, nor does the agency have a monitoring program sufficient to
17 assist park managers in managing their natural resources; and

18 WHEREAS, The long-term effect of inadequate funding is a
19 degradation of some parks' natural resource values and a reduction in
20 the attraction of the parks to future generations; and

21 WHEREAS, National park resource protection and visitor service
22 programs serve to protect public investments and create an economic
23 stimulus for the area in which they are undertaken;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the park
25 service increase natural resource protection programs and reduce the
26 backlog of visitor service, repair, and rehabilitation projects; and

27 BE IT RESOLVED, That your Memorialists support additional funding
28 for the completion and updating of resource management plans for each
29 of the major national parks; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That your Memorialists support the
31 enhancement of park service science programs so that the agency can
32 better understand threats to the resource and options for mitigating
33 damage to park resources; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That your Memorialists support cooperative
35 programs among federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes,
36 and private landowners to assure that land use activities in or near
37 national parks will not damage park resources; and

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That your Memorialists support the use of
39 volunteer efforts and youth conservation corps programs to meet the

1 maintenance and resource protection needs of park units while creating
2 jobs and contributing to the economic development of adjacent
3 communities; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
5 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
6 States, the Director of the National Park Service in the Department of
7 the Interior, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
8 the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
9 State of Washington.

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